

NKCES Report – November/December 2023

The mission of the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services is to strategically leverage the united voice of the superintendents and public schools as we connect, grow and serve the region with vital services as we: provide targeted support services for education professionals, enhance quality learning for students, model and support innovative instructional leadership practices...through a united voice.

BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

Executive Director Update:

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT

Young Scholars Academy Support in Frankfort, KY, November 2: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with many NKY Superintendents, gathered in Frankfort to support the continuation of the YSA program. Dr. Henry Webb and the YSA leadership did a fabulous job sharing with legislators the incredible opportunity and success the program has shown in its existence and the growth potential for years to come for students.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

Finance Meeting: Each month, Executive Director Amy Razor meets with Business Manager Mrs. Angie Perkins, to keep abreast of finances and planning for future expenses.

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

NKCES Synergy Meeting, November 6: Each month, the NKCES team pauses and comes together to engage in learning and meaningful conversations. This month, Executive Director Amy Razor led a mindful moment by revisiting the foundational elements of what mindfulness means. Mrs. Razor will continue to lead a series of INspired Leadership lessons over the next several meetings.

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

Marzano Institute, November 7-10: Through the Deeper Learning grant, NKCES was thrilled to be able to offer each of our member districts registration and hotel accommodations to attend the Marzano Institute in Austin, TX. NKCES is always striving to find ways to elevate our districts and bring cutting-edge opportunities that will translate to student success. The NKCES Leadership has received incredible feedback on how districts are taking the learning and incorporating it into district plans.

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NKCES Professional Learning Consortium, November 17: Executive Director Amy Razor participated in the meeting led by Learning and Empowerment Leadership. The collaborative meeting is such a great resource to hear more about NKCES offerings as well as learn from one another.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

Learning Grove Charity In Action Award, November 17: Executive Director Amy Razor attended the Learning Grove Gala at the Paycor Stadium. At this event, Executive Director Amy Razor accepted the Charity In Action Award on behalf of the NKCES Board. It is a great honor to be recognized by this student-focused organization.

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

KDE Statewide Call, November 27: Executive Director Amy Razor, along with the other 7 regional education cooperatives' leaders, participated in the monthly virtual meeting with KDE to hear from them on current initiatives and discuss any pressing items that are beneficial for the group to hear.

Doctoral Defense, November 29: Executive Director Amy Razor has worked tirelessly on her doctorate for the past three years while leading a growing and thriving NKCES Team. To many, this was a surprise as her level of engagement and attention never wavered. On the morning of November 29, 2023, Executive Director Amy Razor successfully defended her dissertation and earned the title of Dr. Amy Razor. On behalf of the NKCES Team, we are so incredibly proud of our leader and her accomplishments! Dr. Razor intends to use these accomplishments to continue to make a difference in the lives of all kids in NKY and beyond!

KSBA Conference, December 7-9: KSBA Communications Director, Josh Schoulta, requested Dr. Amy Razor and Dr. Robb Smith to present at the KSBA Conference on the topic of Portrait of a Graduate. The breakout session was highly sought after as the room was filled, and the audience engagement was amazing!

NKCES Synergy Meeting, December 11: Carving out this time for leadership to collaborate across departments is so important and allows us to stretch and grow to new and exciting learning opportunities for educators. This month we paused to celebrate the success of the 2023 and dream and plan for the excitement planned for educators in 2024. We are so grateful for our team and all they pour into our region for the betterment of students.

Cheye Calvo, December 13: Mr. Tim Hanner requested that Dr. Razor participate in a virtual interview led by Mr. Cheye Calvo to talk about the educational landscape in NKY.

Superintendent Holiday Lunch, December 14: Dr. Razor and team hosted the NKCES Superintendents for a lunch at Garage on York in Newport, KY. The superintendents enjoyed the festive decor, friendship, and a delicious holiday meal. They also participated in holiday-inspired games, which brought about laughter and some healthy competition. We appreciate the year-long hard work and dedication of these leaders and enjoy creating a space for them to enjoy fellowship and relaxation for a couple of hours.

NKCES Team Holiday Lunch, December 15: Dr. Razor and CAO Melody Stacy hosted the NKCES Team at the Garage on York for a festive lunch and gathering. It is wonderful to pause and enjoy the team around the holidays!

Facilities:

Building Update: Both boilers have been replaced, the small adjustments have been made, and the final inspection has taken place.

Additionally, as our organization continues to grow, we are finding it more difficult to host larger groups at NKCES as our space is limited. The parking lot is definitely an area of concern.

As part of the Arts Integration in Mind project, an outdoor learning space will be designed to meet the needs of learners. The space will be located outside in the space between the modulares and the Synergy Room exterior wall. We are pleased to share that we have selected TLC Construction through the bidding process to complete the work. Installation is set to begin the first week of January and continue until completion.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

November/December Professional Learning: NKCES supported 196 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during November/December, serving 2134 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 23.24 NKCES PL Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [NKCES IDEA/SERTAC Update](#), [SERTAC Services Review Framework](#), [NKCES Learning & Empowerment Update](#), and planning for the monthly district share-outs. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion. There was no meeting in December.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 23.24 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [Title II Coordinator Responsibilities](#), [Title I Coordinators Responsibilities](#) for November, Discussion of Declaration Dates for Spring, (Data pull from Diocese (Feb 3), Mail to Non-public Schools (Mar 3), Due date for documentation returned to districts (Mar 17), and deadline for paperwork submission to KDE TBD), and [KY Statewide Consolidated Monitoring Report](#) (2022-2023). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion. There was no meeting in December.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 23.24 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Alternate Assessment, AKSA Window 1 (Dec 15), SRD Changes, ACCESS, ACT (Selecting Test Dates (Dec 8)), Requesting accommodations (Jan 19), ACT Trainings (Nov 15 & Nov 16), Pre-Register for the [Accommodations Training Nov 13](#), EOP (Feb 19-Mar 29) ([Select window by Dec 1](#)), and Scott Trimble Update. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion. There was no meeting in December.

Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in collaborative environments focused on collective learning. [23-24 NKCES PLN Dates](#).

NKCES is honored to offer a variety of professional learning opportunities. All of them can be found in our [Professional Learning Catalog](#).

Special Education Update:

Ms. Brittney Howell, Regional Director of Special Education, led a regional data day for DoSEs. This day focused on looking at regional KSA data and developing themes, discussing root causes and action planning surrounding specially designed instruction with reading, writing, and math.

 **NKCES Data Day Framework**

Mrs. Amanda Bell and Ms. Brittney Howell attended the Learning Forward Conference in Washington D.C. The IDEA representation on the NKCES team for Learning Forward was an integral part of full representation on continued growth for our professional learning.

Dr. Merissa Waddey's last day with NKCES was 12/31/23. Dr. Waddey leaves big shoes to fill, but we are excited to see her continue to grow and thrive as the new GRREC Director of Special Education. She is looking forward to establishing roots in the Bowling Green area and spending time with her family there.

Mrs. Mist Carr leads NKCES book study. Mrs. Carr is currently leading a robust book study, *The PD Book*, by Elena Aguilar and co-author Lori Cohen. This book offers seven habits, and a wealth of practical tools, that focus on professional development and adult learning. The NKCES team that's participating in the book study is learning how to inspire adult learners, the importance of having clear purpose, and how to navigate power dynamics in a group.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

The annual report for Year 2 of our five-year grant was submitted to the U.S. Department of Education on November 17. All GPRA goals and program objectives were met. As members of a pilot cohort using a new contract-based funding model, schools in three districts successfully completed Comprehensive Arts Plans. Mr. Bertucci led two PLN meetings: one for Visual & Performing Arts teachers and one for other-content teachers integrating the arts. Mr. Bertucci also organized educator field trips for school and district leaders to visit and attend performances at Cincinnati's Playhouse in the Park and Music Hall. Finally, Mr. Bertucci met with a representative from ArtsWave to discuss future partnerships, including support of regional teaching artists and students identified as Gifted/Talented in the Arts.

Kentucky Center for Mandarin Language and Culture (KCMLC):

KCMLC sponsored six local teachers to attend the national American Council of Teachers of Foreign Language Conference in Chicago, IL. These six teachers led a full-day workshop on the things they learned at ACTFL for other Chinese language teachers to share best practices, lesson ideas, and activities. Two KCMLC leaders attended the Global Chinese Language Conference in Beijing, China December 7-9.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP): NKISP had a virtual Catch My Breath training. The team debriefed on the 2023 NKY Youth Summit and made decisions for 2024 Youth Summit. Christi Jefferds presented to Marshall University Emeritus Club on "Mental Health and Substance Misuse Challenges in K-12 Public Schools" and to the Kentucky School Public Relations Association Conference on "Countering the Vaping Epidemic". The team submitted a Carryover Request of \$80,000 for the SPF Grant to SAMHSA and submitted our Q1 SPARS report.

School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) and Trauma Informed Services in Schools (TISS):

The SBMH & TISS grant work has been focused on assisting districts with the implementation of the grant activities along with working on end-of-year grant reports.. Most of the recent work included meeting with districts to assist with providing feedback or guidance for submission of their Quarter 2 Invoices for reimbursement, meeting with community mental health organizations, planning future mental health professional learning opportunities, collaborating with SPF Grant staff to plan for the Youth Advisory Board, participation in professional learning opportunities to gain knowledge for grant activities, & conducting grant committee virtual meetings to provide guidance to district for implementation.

Deeper Learning: Deeper Learning team has been working on the 2024 Deeper Learning Summit. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will be the venue for the June 10 and June 11 event. Liz Murray, Marcia Tate, Peter Block, Mike Rutherford and Todd Whitney have been contracted as presenters. The DL team has partnered with Dr. Kathy Swan to provide two in-house training sessions which both reached maximum attendance. The DL team served 11 districts during the November and December months.

CRSSA: The CRSSA team offered 41 PL opportunities to include backward mapping to improve tier 1 instruction, UFLI training, Writing Revolution. The quarterly CRSSA data report was submitted to KDE and NKCES led participation numbers in many areas to include science and MTSS support. The report showed NKCES with a collective impact of a total of 3,701 participants and 89% regional coverage.

Grant Consortium Update:

This was in an in-person meeting. The group celebrated the year's successes and had informal conversations about plans for next year and what they have learned from each other. They also discussed grants in progress and implementation.

Grants available included: [RFA FY24 KYILN Travel Grant](#) due Dec. 19; [Farm to School Grant](#) due Jan. 12; [Transition for youth with autism and/or epilepsy](#) due March 11. Dayton is working on an NFL Grassroots Football Field grant, due January 31, 2024.

The group reviewed pending grants including: Andrew Lloyd Webber, [to be announced in](#) January (earlier planned for December announcement); Mathematics Achievement Fund, to be announced on or around Jan. 17; Ky DERA Diesel grant program, to be announced between December and February; 21st Century Community Learning Centers; RFA FY24 Equipment Assistance Grant

Existing grants discussed included: NK Institute for Strategic Prevention (Project Director has resigned; Christi Jefferds will assume that role and the Lead Epidemiologist will be contracted); NK Institute for Arts Education; Project Prevent; Positive Action; Trauma Informed School Services and School Based Mental Health Services (working as the Northern Kentucky Institute for Empowerment)

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

- NKU Fall Festival was hosted in early November.
- NKU graciously donated a Mayerson grant to RSP.
- Hickory Grove donated full Thanksgiving meals to over 40 of our families this year.
- RSP was able to provide the food, baskets, and other items needed for our Holiday Food baskets from our partnerships and additional donations.
- Donations from Verst Logistics, Darling Ingredients, and DeBra-Kuempel allowed us to provide gifts for every student in our program.
- Four students were able to participate in Campbell County's Cops and Kids gift shopping program.
- NKCES hosted our annual RSP Holiday Shop, which allowed students to shop for gifts for two people of their choosing.