

## NKCES Report – January 2024

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.

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BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

### **Executive Director Update:**

BELLEVUE 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.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

**NKCES Synergy Meeting, January 8:** 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 sharing a Loving-Kindness meditation and brain research to support this work. Team members received a graphic with a QR Code to her blog with more information to support this work.

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

**St. Elizabeth Mammogram Bus, January 9:** NKCES hosted a mammogram bus for staff, family, friends, and the community. We filled the afternoon of our allotted time with appointments to support women's health! This will be an annual event at NKCES.

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

**Superintendent Webcast, January 16:** Dr. Razor, along with education leaders from across the state, joined the monthly webcast to keep abreast of current topics impacting education.

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

**KDE Statewide Call, January 22:** Executive Director Amy Razor, along with the other seven 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.

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

**KAEC Retreat, January 23 - January 25:** Dr. Razor, along with the other education cooperative directors, attended the annual retreat to learn and share together. The focus of the retreat was safety and crisis teams to support districts, along with a share-out of best practices.

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

**NKCES Synergy Meeting, January 29:** 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. We continue to revisit the RACI chart to plan out events throughout the year and track progress. We are also finishing up our second book study with the group, "How To Work With Almost Anyone".

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

### **Facilities:**

**Building Update:** 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 modulars and the Synergy Room exterior wall. TLC Construction has been working, weather permitting, on the stage and surrounding outdoor space. We are expecting to complete it this month.

### **Professional Learning (PL) Update:**

**January Professional Learning:** NKCES supported 123 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during January, serving 1,612 educators.

**Professional Learning (PL) Consortium:** The 23.24 NKCES PL Consortium continued in January with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [NKCES IDEA/SERTAC Update](#), [NKCES Learning & Empowerment Update](#), and Mr. Keith Faust with Fort Thomas Independent did our monthly district share-out, [PL Pathways: Workshop v Cadre Model \(one pager\)](#). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

**Title I & Title II Meeting:** The 23.24 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium continued in January with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [Title II Coordinator Responsibilities](#), [Title I Coordinators Responsibilities](#), and Discussion of Declaration Dates for Spring 2024, (Data pull from Diocese (Feb 2), [Diocesan Confidentiality Agreement](#), Mail to Non-public Schools (Mar 1), Due date for documentation returned to districts (Mar 15), and deadline for paperwork submission to KDE TBD). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.


**District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting:** The 23.24 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in January with a collaborative meeting. Topics included ACT (Students in Pan - Verify enrollment, Jan. 19 - Accommodations Request Deadline, Feb. 2 - Reconsideration Deadline, and Site Readiness - Proctor caching no longer available), Alternate Kentucky Summative Assessment (AKSA) (Window 1 make-ups - until March 22), ACCESS (Window until Feb. 16 and Ordering additional materials), DAC Training (Jan. 29 - Information released, Feb. 5 - Frankfort - Sower Building (in person only), Feb. 15 - Ashland - Kentucky Development Corporation (hybrid), Feb. 21 - Eddyville - West Kentucky Educational Coop (hybrid), Participants may register for any of these sessions using the [2024 February DAC Training Registration Form](#)). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

**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 the Regional IDEA Advisory Board.**

The regional IDEA Advisory board meeting was held.  **2023 Fall IDEA Advisory Board Meeting** The NKCES IDEA Advisory Board is composed of 13 members. The chair of the NKCES IDEA Advisory Board will be one of the district DoSE serving on the NKCES DoSE Advisory Council. The chair will be elected by the DoSE Advisory Council.

The purpose of this advisory board is to:

1. Support the development of the NKCES IDEA budget
2. Provide guidance for the key direction(s) of the IDEA proposed plan of action
3. Promote attendance at identified action items in IDEA proposed plan to build human capacity

This board will meet in the fall and spring. Agenda for the Advisory Boards will be set by the NKCES Regional DoSE.

**Mrs. Amanda Bell and Mrs. Kim Snowball announced 2024-2025 EEMC Dates.**

■ **2024-25 EEMC Flyer - Erikson Early Math Collaborative (1).jpg** The goal of the Early Math Collaborative at Erikson Institute is to expand access to math for young children. This is our third Cohort through NKCES and we are expanding our audience to include Kindergarten Teachers, Speech Therapists working in PK or Kindergarten settings in addition to our NKCES PK Teachers.

**The NKCES SERTAC team completed Services Feedback visit to Walton Verona Middle School.** We are so thankful to Walton Verona Middle School for welcoming us in to see the great things that are happening in their special education program. In addition to being able to call out the greatness, we will be able to provide feedback for growth and future opportunities to collaborate for Professional Learning.

**Mrs. Misti 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):**

In January, Mr. Joe Bertucci led two PLN meetings: one for Visual & Performing Arts teachers and one for other-content teachers integrating the arts. He also led training for a professional learning cadre in Ft. Thomas Independent Schools. School leaders in Cohort 2 of the AIM Program submitted mid-year reports updating progress on their Comprehensive Arts Plans. Invitations for Cohort 3 were sent to eligible districts. Mr. Bertucci attended a Community of Practice meeting with fellow grantees of the ED Assistance for Arts Education grant. He is also working in collaboration with The Carnegie and Pones to develop lessons for the third season of our *Arts Express* video series.

**Kentucky Center for Mandarin Language and Culture (KCMLC):**

KCMLC teachers traveled to Lexington with students from Grandview Elementary that were selected to perform in the Kentucky Association of Chinese Language Teachers, Chinese New Year celebration to practice skills and learn more about Chinese culture. Scheduling and planning is underway for a day of learning for the teachers here at NKCES for February.

**Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP):**

The NKISP team held their Steering Committee Meeting this month. They attended several coalition meetings with various community partners. The team was involved with Pendleton County High School

Rural Youth Mental Health Focus Group, NKY Legislators Behavioral Health Information breakfast in Frankfort, and Activating Hope meetings.

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

The SBMH & TISS grant work has been focused on assisting districts with implementation of the grant activities along with working on end of year grant report requirements and the carryover plans for budget request amendments. 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, collecting district data to meet grant reporting requirements, meeting with community mental health organizations, planning future mental health professional learning opportunities, collaborating with NKISP Grant staff to plan for the Youth Advisory Board Pilot Project, assisting with planning the upcoming Student Mental Health Roundtables, participating in professional learning opportunities to gain knowledge for grant activities, meeting with individual districts to clarify grant finance processes, planning additional grant support for District Finance Directors, & conducting grant committee meetings to provide guidance to district for implementation.

**Deeper Learning:** The Deeper Learning team continues to collaborate with various stakeholders for the 2024 Deeper Learning Summit for the June 10 and June 11 event. The DL team partnered with UK Next Gen to offer two differentiated academies around Portrait of a Learner. This work will continue with sessions into February. The Deeper Learning team worked alongside Dr. Kathy Swan to close out the cohort around the inquiry design model. These sessions were maxed out for all four sessions. Deeper Learning Demographic Data Metrix reporting was submitted to the state on January 31.

**CRRSA:** This month, the CRRSA team worked to serve 10 districts, reaching over 300 educators with PL opportunities to include topics on Tier 1 Behavior Interventions, Responsibility-Centered Discipline, HQR for Math and Science, Backwards Planning, etc. The team continued their work on the Social Emotional Learning and Learning Acceleration task groups which are projected to be shared this summer. The CRRSA :SEL Specialists worked with districts across the region to identify students to participate in the upcoming NKY Student Mental Health Roundtable Event.

**Grant Consortium Update:****District Grants News:**

- Dayton submitted NFL Grassroots Football Field grant for \$250,000! Awards will be announced in April/May.
- 21st CCLC: Stacie Strotman noted that she has been in discussions with Kentucky Out-of-School Alliance (KYOSA) and 21st CCLC folks at KDE to learn why expansion grants were not offered this year and to advocate for them for the next iteration. She asked other district representatives to reach out to her if they also are interested in working toward expansion grants being offered next year ([stacie.strotman@covington.kyschools.us](mailto:stacie.strotman@covington.kyschools.us)).

**Grants available:**

- [Strategic Prevention Framework-Partners for Success](#) due February 21. Two grants are underway; one for Covington and Erlanger-Elsmere; one for the Homeless Education Collaborative.
- [Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Fund Mini-Grant](#) due March 19. districts that expressed interest are: Kenton County, Carroll County, and Walton Verona Independent. Others may also have interest. Contact Vicki if you want assistance.

- [Transition for youth with autism and/or epilepsy](#) due March 11. Jacki Alexander ([jacqueline.alexander@nkces.org](mailto:jacqueline.alexander@nkces.org)) and Brittney Howell ([brittney.howell@nkces.org](mailto:brittney.howell@nkces.org)) are developing a proposal to address needs of youth with autism. Anyone who would like input should reach out to them or to Vicki.
- [Preschool Quality Partnership](#) due March 22. Jenny McMillen said that Ludlow got this grant last year and implementation is going well.

**Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:**

RSP has presented a draft 24-25 draft calendar that will go to the District of Record's board for final approval.

We have started our initial testing plans/drafts and, as always, will share out if there are extra needs to assist with proctors, etc.

RSP Standing Committee will meet on February 6 and review proposed amendments to the procedures regarding slot commitments for the 24-25 school year.