

NKCES Report – February 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.

BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

Executive Director Update:

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN 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. This month focused on salary schedules and budgets for 2024-25.

KAEC Meeting, February 1: Dr. Razor participated in the monthly virtual meeting to discuss current events within the education landscape and work together.

Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney Meeting, February 2: Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney's visit to NKCES was informative and demonstrated her commitment to collaborating with superintendents to improve education in our region and the Commonwealth. In closing, NKY looks forward to continued communication and partnership as we work towards a shared goal of providing quality education for all students.

NKCES Synergy Meeting, February 5: Each month, the NKCES team pauses and comes together to engage in learning and meaningful conversations. Dr. Razor is leading the mindful moments as part of a series of foundational mindfulness tools that have been an integral part of NKCES beliefs and contribute to our success. Team members are encouraged to visit Dr. Razor's monthly blog posts she focuses on mindfulness practices in education.

Superintendent Webcast, February 13: Dr. Razor, along with education leaders from across the state, joined the monthly webcast to keep abreast of current topics impacting education.

NKCES hosts Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, February 14: Following the monthly board of directors meeting, Lt. Governor Coleman visited with the NKCES superintendents to share Governor Breashear's recommended budget. The Lt. Governor spent time answering specific superintendent questions. The Governor and Lt. Governor's strong commitment to public education are evident, and we are very grateful for their steadfast support and leadership.

Deeper Learning Grant Meeting, February 20: Dr. Razor participated in a virtual meeting with KY Education Cooperative Directors to discuss the remaining budget of the Deeper Learning grant and the plans that Dr. Robb Smith, Statewide Director of Deeper Learning, has for the remaining months. The plans include a culminating summer conference in July to highlight the learning that has occurred.

PL Consortium, February 23: 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.

NKCES Synergy Meeting, February 26: 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”.

Schools to Watch, February 26, 27: As part of the Schools To Watch Committee, Dr. Razor participated in the Ballyshannon Middle School visit. Dr. Razor saw so many wonderful examples of exceptional teaching and learning.

Innovative Schools Summit, February 28 - March 2: Dr. Razor and many KAEC members and educators across the nation gathered in New York to network with fellow educators and learn from nationally recognized speakers. These speakers share their experiences and proven strategies to help educators succeed in the classroom and in their careers.

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 In Mind project, an outdoor arts and professional learning center will be installed to meet the needs of learners. The center will be located outside in the space between the modulares and the Synergy Room exterior wall. Work has been ongoing, weather permitting, on the stage and surrounding outdoor space. We are expecting to complete it in the coming months.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

February Professional Learning: NKCES supported 138 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during January, serving 1,489 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 23.24 NKCES PL Consortium continued in February with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [NKCES IDEA/SERTAC Update](#), [NKCES Learning & Empowerment Update](#), and monthly district share-out. 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 February with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [Title II Coordinator Responsibilities](#), [Title I Coordinators Responsibilities](#), 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), [FY25 Declaration of Participation Forms](#). Ms. Kammi Goatley (in-person), Jennifer Jones (virtual), and

Joanna Smith (virtual) with Public Consulting Group presented and had a Q/A on Title1 Next. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 23.24 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in February with a collaborative meeting. Topics included ACT, AKSA, EOP, and KSA (DAC Training, [TAM/Scripts](#)). 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, addressed Emergency Certification Teacher emails from KDE. As most are aware, KDE issued emails to all Directors of Special Education and teachers holding current certifications that are on an “emergency basis” in the areas of LBD, MSD, and IECE. These emails contained information regarding the federal law requirement of states not issuing emergency certificates for any Special Education Certification (LBD, MSD, ICEC) starting in the 2024-2025 school year. Brittney has worked with Misti Carr to provide DoSEs guidance on moving forward. [Alternative Certification Routes](#)

Mrs. Amanda Bell and Jacki Alexander worked with Blair Hicks to provide University of Florida’s Literacy Institute (UFLI) training. The work of UFLI focuses on two main areas: teacher development and reader development. The place where those two overlap is where the work of UFLI lives. This training provided resources and implementation guidance to help teachers become more confident and more successful in their capacity to help kids learn to read.

The NKCES SERTAC team completed Services Feedback summary to District Administration in Walton Verona. 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. Ms. Brittney Howell met with district administration to be able to review the data the SERTAC team collected and developed action for future professional learning and celebration.

Mrs. Jacki Alexander held the February Transition Cohort training. The NKTi training on Person Centered Planning was amazing. We had roughly 30 participants engaged in deep conversation regarding student participation and ownership in the planning of their future. Teachers walked away with multiple resources and tools to assist with student engagement and planning. Key websites such as Life Course Nexus, NTACT, and I’m Determined were explored for additional resources and support.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE)

In February, Mr. Joe Bertucci provided information and resources for Cohort 3 of the Arts In Mind program, serving 30 schools in 17 districts. These schools will be developing Comprehensive Arts Plans in March. Videos for Season 3 of our *Arts Express* series, supporting instruction in elementary dance, were filmed. In addition, Mr. Bertucci attended two national conferences to support our work in the region:

The Kennedy Center's *Partners in Education* Annual Meeting (with Boone County Schools) and The U.S. Department of Education's *Assistance for Arts Education* Project Directors' Convening. He also led training for a professional learning cadre in Ft. Thomas Independent Schools.

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 worked on visiting schools for the Youth Advisory Board.

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 grant activities along with providing additional guidance to clarify financial processes. Most of the recent work included meeting with individual districts to assist with providing additional information regarding grant financial processes, planning future mental health professional learning opportunities, collaborating with SPF Grant staff to plan & implement the Youth Advisory Board Pilot Project with four high schools in our region, assisting with planning the upcoming Student Mental Health Roundtables, participating in professional learning opportunities to gain knowledge for grant activities, implementing a virtual meeting to provide additional grant support for District Finance Directors, and collaborating to implement the first customized Sprout Box for teachers to get professional learning resources focused on personal wellness.

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 concluded the UK Next Gen cohort with continued work with 6 districts on Portrait of a Learner. The Deeper Learning Phase II data collection and DL Sustainability Plan was submitted to KDE on February 28, 2024.

CRRSA Team: CRRSA team served 17 districts to include Northern Kentucky University, reaching over 250 educators with PL opportunities to include topics on UFLI, MTSS, Tier 1 Lesson Planning, etc. The NKCES CRRSA team continued working with CRRSA teams across the state on the Social Emotional Learning and Learning Acceleration task groups which are projected to be shared this summer. The CRRSA SEL Specialists worked with students across seven districts that are participating in the upcoming NKY Student Mental Health Roundtable Event.

Grant Consortium Update:

District Grants News

- 21st CCLC: Stacie Strotman noted that she has been in discussions with 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.

Grants available

- [Strategic Prevention Framework-Partners for Success](#) due February 21. Two grants were submitted; 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, and Walton Verona. Please reach out to Vicki Dansberry (vicki.dansberry@nkces.org) for assistance.

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

Collaborative Grants Pending

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers. To be announced late March.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

We are continuing our RSP testing planning phases and scheduling.

The RSP Standing Committee will meet on March 26th, our last scheduled meeting for the 23-24 school year.

Pending any further weather days, our tentative annual Awards and Promotion Ceremony will be held on 5/22/24; details to follow once it is finalized.