

NKCES Report – April 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

Crosstown School visit, March 31- April 3: Several Deeper Learning Leaders from NKCES and across the state visited Crosstown School in Memphis, Tennessee. The school exceeded everyone's expectations in how well they have integrated real-world opportunities and exposure to students. The variety and choices the students have within this school are limitless.

Department Meetings, April 8 & 9: Dr. Razor met with department leads to close the fiscal year and discussed 2024-25 plans.

Superintendent Webcast, April 11: Dr. Razor and education leaders from across the state joined the monthly webcast to keep abreast of current topics impacting education.

NKCES Synergy Meeting, April 15: Each month, the NKCES team pauses and comes together to engage in learning and meaningful conversations. This month, the team welcomed Learning Forward, TX, who joined us as we focused on our team goals for the year through the lens of the PL Standards.

Procurement Meeting, April 16: Dr. Razor spent time with Procurement Director Mike Wilson to discuss the current progress of developing procurement opportunities in Northern Kentucky. Mr. Wilson looks forward to sharing his progress with the board in May!

Finance Meeting, April 18: Each month, Dr. Amy Razor meets with Business Manager Mrs. Angie Perkins to keep abreast of finances and planning for future expenses. This month's focus was on closing out budgets.

Excellence in Education Celebration & Dinner, April 23: NKCES supported local teachers and students being recognized by attending this celebratory event.

NKCES Synergy Leadership Meeting, April 29: Carving out this time for leadership to collaborate across departments is important and allows us to stretch and grow to new and exciting learning opportunities for educators. We continue revisiting the RACI chart to plan events throughout the year and track progress. We finished our second book study with the group, "How To Work With Almost Anyone."

Facilities:

Building Update: As our organization grows, we find it more challenging to host larger groups at NKCES as our space is limited. The parking lot is 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 outside 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.

RSP Cafeteria Upgrades will begin once the school year ends. The upgrades will include new flooring, fresh paint, and general maintenance.

Brick tucking will continue this summer to maintain the building structurally. We anticipate one more session following this summer.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

April Professional Learning: NKCES supported 92 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during April, serving 1,141 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium, April 26: The 23.24 NKCES PL Consortium continued with a collaborative meeting in April. Topics included [RankUp KY!](#) presented by Carter Myers with BloomBoard. [KDE Literacy Support](#) presented by Amelia Powers. [NKCES IDEA/SERTAC Update](#), [NKCES Learning & Empowerment Update](#), [Instructional Spotlight](#), and monthly district share-out. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

Title I & Title II Meeting, April 26: The 23.24 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium continued with a collaborative meeting in April. Topics included [Title II Coordinator Responsibilities](#), Virtual Statewide Federal Programs [Training provided by The Bruman Group](#) (June 3-4 (same content offered both days)), Title I Webinar, Parent and Family Engagement Resources ([Effective District Parent and Family Engagement Policy Checklist](#), [District Parent and Family Engagement Policy Template](#), [Effective School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Checklist](#), [Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Template](#), [Secondary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Template](#), [Effective School-Family Compact Checklist](#), [School-Family Compact Template](#), [Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact Frequently Asked Questions](#)), [Title I Coordinators Responsibilities](#), [Declaration of Participation](#) (wrap up), [Consultation Agreement Form](#), Consultation Resources: 1. ESEA Now, article “[Know the Rules: Meaningful Consultation](#).” 2. Question A-9 of [Providing Equitable Services to Eligible Private School Children, Teachers, and Families \(October 2019\)](#). 3. Related resources section in the [Non-Public School Ombudsman webpage](#). Title II, [Sample Professional Development Opportunities](#). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.


District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting, April 16: The 23.24 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in April with a collaborative meeting. Topics included ACT Scores, AKSA (Window 2 - April 15 - May 24, SRD April 15 - May 31, TAR ends May 24, **Action Needed:** Forms 4, 5 and 6 are the correct field test item forms, however the answer sheets included in the AKSA shipping materials are labeled incorrectly. To correct this issue, test administrators have two options: 1. Print the corrected [Window 2 Attainment Task Answer Sheet](#) from the Online Training System (OTS) website for recording

Window 2 student answers; or 2. Write the correct field test form number on the Attainment Task Answer Sheet provided in shipping materials), SDRR (Spring rosters April 24 - June 12), ACCESS (score reports online April 26 & paper May 8), K Screen ([April 24 Train the Trainers](#)), KSA ([Site Visits](#), [KSA Testing Items and Times](#), [Released Items](#), [Practice Tests](#), [Scripts](#), [3 - 5 Quality of School Climate & Safety Survey](#), [6-11 Quality of School Climate & Safety Survey](#), KSA Desmos Calculator - [Desmos | Test Practice](#), Link – Click “choose assessment” at the top > KY/KSA. [Technical Manual](#) link to the KDE website: <https://www.education.ky.gov/AA/Reports/Pages/TechManuals.aspx>. 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:

IDEA Team prepares for summer learning. The team eagerly gathered to lay out all the tasks that need to be completed for summer learning. Based on regional KSA data, literacy instruction is a big focus. We welcome the opportunity to help our NKCES region teachers build a toolbox of instructional skills to address reading.  [April PL IDEA Slides](#)

Mrs. Amanda Bell and NKCES hosted state Low Incidence Consultants. On April 23-24, NKCES hosted the state Low Incidence Task Group. This group of 12 worked together to continue the support and guidance to our state Moderate to Severe Disabilities population.

Mrs. Emily Borchers attended Conscious Discipline Training. The philosophy of Conscious Discipline emerged after years of working with children and experiencing the challenges of growing students impacted by trauma. The methodology, programs and best-practices focus on the transformation of adult behavior and responses in addition to explicit skill development and instruction of students with challenging behavior.

IDEA Team Members join forces with Learning and Empowerment for Learning Forward Professional Learning. Professional learning and continuing education are vital for our NKCES team to stay abreast of evolving PL practices, technology, and methodologies. It ensures they can effectively meet the diverse needs of all educators and adapt to changing curricula. The Texas Learning Forward Team empowered our NKCES team to refine their skills, enhance participant engagement, and foster a culture of lifelong learning. Additionally, it helps educators stay inspired and passionate about their profession, ultimately leading to improved student outcomes for our region.

Ms. Brittney Howell held a regional DoSE meeting to discuss systems of data analysis and reflection practices! This month’s DoSE meeting centered around data analysis and it plays a crucial role in special education by providing insights into individual student progress, identifying areas of strength and need, and guiding instructional decision-making. Through careful reflection and review of data, educators can tailor specially designed instruction and support strategies to meet the unique needs of each student.

Learning and Empowerment Team:**Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):**

In April, Mr. Joe Bertucci reviewed and approved the Comprehensive Arts Plans of all 30 schools in Cohort 3 of the *Arts In Mind* program. Mr. Bertucci shared feedback and pertinent information with the 17 district arts ambassadors and finance directors, as well as school committees. Mr. Bertucci worked with Project Evaluator Dr. Joan Ferrante and Project Director Vicki Dansberry to submit the *Assistance for Arts Education* Annual Performance Report to the U.S. Department of Education. Mr. Bertucci also attended a Networking for Arts Education event, sponsored by ArtsWave, to connect with regional teaching artists and arts organizations who can support our schools. Sixteen videos for Season 3 of our *Arts In Mind* series, supporting learning paths and college/career readiness in the arts, were filmed on April 25, 26, and 29. Plans for July's Visual & Performing Arts Workshop were finalized and shared with the PL Consortium.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP):

This month the NKISP team trained the FRYSC at Ockerman MS in Catch My Breath. They hosted their Institute Meeting which featured Mike Eiden from Eiden Integrative Services speaking on Screen and Internet Addiction and the Impact on Development. The team attended the online Stanford Cannabis Summit to build capacity in the area of cannabis and impacts on youth and Amplifying Youth Voice Grantee Meeting at Interact for Health with other grantees. Christi Jefferds also co-facilitated the Owen Co HS Youth Advisory Board as they prepare for the Mental Health Awareness Month school campaign, and participated in EC3/Kenton County Alliance's Sticker Shock campaign to prevent underage drinking.

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

The SBMH & TISS grant work has been focused on assisting districts with spending their funds for this fiscal year, collecting all grant data, and conducting virtual meetings with districts in lieu of April Steering Committee Meetings. Most of the recent work included assisting Vicki Dansberry with the completion of the new SBMH Grant application, 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, participation in professional learning opportunities to gain knowledge for upcoming grant activities/events, collaborating to plan the third customized Sprout Box for teachers to get professional learning resources focused on leadership, implementing the application process for the 2023-2024 Regional Youth Advisory Board, & collaborating with others to plan professional learning opportunities for 2024-2025.

Deeper Learning:

The Deeper Learning team collaborated with 7 district teams on individualized work around Portrait of a Learner. The Deeper Learning team continues the planning process for the 2024 NKCES Deeper Learning Summit, which includes working with student groups for student-led presentations. NKCES received our Deeper Learning Grant Monitoring Report with a strength recognizing the professional organization of the professional learning log. There were no required actions needed with the quarterly reporting.

CRRSA:

The CRRSA team served 7 districts, reaching over 253 educators along with over 350 students. Professional learning opportunities around individualized work with Tiered Counselor Support, Backward Mapping, Formative Assessment, and supported with several health and safety fairs. The CRRSA teams continue to work across the state with task groups on an online catalog, which is projected to be shared this summer. The Learning Accelerated Specialist (LAS) team also collaborated with other NKCES teams to

design an ongoing, tiered PL opportunity around High Quality Instructional Resources (HQIR) which was presented at PL Consortium.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grants available

- [Joe Burrow Foundation](#): \$10,000 over 3 years for mental health or food insecurity. Due April 30.
- [Mentoring for Youth Affected by Opioid and Other Substance Misuse](#): Work with Covington Partners, who has a 3-year mentoring program if you are interested. \$650,000 over 3 years. Due May 21 and June 3. Webinar April 29.
- [School Violence Prevention](#): \$650,000 over three years for school safety equipment, reporting systems threat assessment, and training in crisis management for staff and students. Requires a 25% match. Due 6/11 and 6/17.
- [STOP School Violence](#): \$1,000,000 over three years to train staff and students; build and support threat assessment or intervention teams; technology for hotline/website for reporting; school safety solutions: access to school based behavioral health supports, SEL programs (Crime Solutions.gov is their evidence-based list); train SROs; hire personnel to improve school climate and positive response to student behavior. Due 6/12 and 6/20.
- [School Based Mental Health](#). \$3,000,000 a year X 5 years. Plan underway at NKCES is described in this [Overview of SBMH draft plan](#). Due April 30. Thanks to all who signed letters for this one.
- [Mathematics Achievement Fund Coaching Cohort 2](#), \$62,000 X 2, renewable another 2 years. District match. Due June 4.
- [OJJDP FY24 Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence](#), \$1,000,000 over 36 months. Due June 10/June 24.

Collaborative Grants Pending

- Strategic Prevention Framework-Partners for Success. 2 grants; announcements expected Sept 30.
- Transition for Youth with Autism and/or Epilepsy. Announcement due Sept. 30.

District Grants Pending

- Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Fund. Announcement expected May 1.
- Preschool Quality Partnership. Announcement expected April 24.
- RFA FY24 McKinney Vento Grant. Announcement expected May 23.

Grant Tips and News

- [COPS Hiring Grant](#) Vicki was contacted by one police department for more information about the grant that police must apply for that can support hiring of SROs.

- AI in grants discussion: Vicki noted discussion among grant writers about prohibitions on using AI that can even include things like Grammarly. Amy Gilkison described materials she had received from the Grants Management training she attended.
- District trainings: Vicki offered to do grant writing training in any district this summer.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

- RSP is scheduled to begin testing on May 8.
- Our 10th annual Awards and Promotion Ceremony will be held on 5/22/24 at 12:30pm.
- RSP's last day for students is 5/23/24.
- First day of school for students next school year is 8/14/24.