

**Curriculum Department Report to the Board of Education**  
**Curriculum Department Highlights**  
**May 22, 2024**

**To:** Mr. Watts, Superintendent  
Ms. Malone, Chairperson of the Board  
Members of the Board of Education

**Newport Curriculum Department Vision:**

We envision a day when **all leaders** of Newport Independent Schools exhibit high expectations and guarantee excellence of instruction, ensure equitable opportunities and leverage all high quality resources so that students, staff and leaders will **maximize** their fullest potential.

## **Chief Academic Officer:**

Teacher professional development plays a pivotal role in school improvement and is strongly correlated with positive student outcomes. By providing teachers with ongoing opportunities to enhance their knowledge, skills, and instructional practices, professional development initiatives contribute to creating a more effective and supportive learning environment. Below are key points highlighting the importance of teacher professional development:

1. **Enhancing Instructional Practices:** Professional development equips teachers with the latest research-based strategies, teaching methods, and instructional technologies, enabling them to deliver high-quality instruction that meets the diverse needs of students.
2. **Promoting Collaboration and Professional Learning Communities:** Professional development fosters collaboration among teachers, allowing them to share best practices, collaborate on curriculum design, and problem-solve together. This collaborative culture promotes continuous learning and improvement within the school community.
3. **Addressing Student Needs:** Professional development often focuses on understanding and addressing the specific needs of students, including those from diverse backgrounds, students with special needs, and English language learners. By improving teachers' ability to differentiate instruction and provide targeted support, professional development helps close achievement gaps and ensures all students have access to a quality education.

4. **Implementing Data-Driven Instruction:** Effective professional development emphasizes the use of data to inform instructional decisions. Teachers learn how to analyze student data, identify areas for growth, and adjust their teaching strategies accordingly, leading to more personalized and effective instruction.
  
5. **Supporting Teacher Well-being and Retention:** Investing in professional development demonstrates a commitment to teachers' growth and well-being, which can increase job satisfaction and retention rates. Teachers who feel supported and valued are more likely to remain in the profession and contribute to long-term school improvement efforts.

In summary, teacher professional development is a cornerstone of school improvement efforts, with a direct impact on positive student outcomes. By empowering teachers to continually improve their practice, professional development contributes to creating a vibrant learning community where all students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

**TEACHER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Implementation in 24-25 school year.**

**Ron Clark Academy**

<https://ronclarkacademy.com/professional-development/>

Ron Clark, is the founder of the acclaimed Ron Clark Academy (RCA) in Atlanta. Ron has shared his unique and immersive approach to creating a loving, engaging, and dynamic learning environment that fosters excellence and leadership for students and teachers. Initially only three NISD teachers were selected to participate in Professional Learning in Atlanta, GA at the Ron Clark Academy with all expenses paid (flight, lodging and professional learning experience) through a scholarship offered by Huntington Bank, however through the advocacy of Ms. Payne Huntington Bank has agree to provide three more scholarships. This means that all teachers who attended the Ignite the classroom event will now be traveling to the Ron Clark Academy for

professional development with all expenses paid. Upon return these teachers have agreed to become model classrooms for student engagement.

## **Modern Classrooms**

<https://www.modernclassrooms.org/>

ModernClassrooms.org is an innovative educational platform aimed at transforming traditional teaching methods. It provides a framework for teachers to implement a personalized, mastery-based approach in their classrooms. The platform emphasizes self-paced learning, leveraging technology to create individualized learning experiences for students. By flipping the traditional classroom model, ModernClassrooms.org empowers educators to focus on targeted interventions and support, fostering deeper understanding and mastery of subjects. Through a combination of online resources, instructional videos, and data-driven analytics, the platform equips teachers with the tools they need to create dynamic and engaging learning environments tailored to each student's needs.

This training increases the teacher's capacity and effectiveness toward positive student outcomes by providing a method for differentiation. Differentiation allows all students access to grade level, Tier I instruction. Five teachers are participating and implementing this training. The training requires 10 hours of initial professional development in the summer, with continuing education throughout the school year. The teachers participating in this training will become model classrooms for differentiation and engagement.

## **Read to Succeed Summer Reading Conference**

Flyer: [Summer Reading Conference Flyer 508.pdf](#)

<https://www.kentuckyteacher.org/news/2024/04/registration-open-for-kentucky-reads-to-succeed-summer-conference/>

The Read to Succeed Conference, slated to take place in Lexington, Kentucky on June 20th, 2024, promises to be an enriching and inspiring event for educators, literacy advocates, and anyone passionate about promoting reading proficiency and literacy skills among learners of all ages. This conference aims to bring together experts, practitioners, and stakeholders in the field of

literacy to share innovative strategies, research findings, and best practices for fostering a culture of reading and improving literacy outcomes.

Attendees can look forward to a dynamic program featuring keynote speeches from renowned literacy experts, interactive workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities. Participants will have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of topics, including effective literacy instruction, early childhood literacy initiatives, literacy across content areas, literacy assessment and intervention strategies, promoting a love of reading, and leveraging technology to enhance literacy learning.

Moreover, the Read to Succeed Conference will provide a platform for educators to exchange ideas, collaborate on solutions to common challenges, and gain practical insights that can be implemented in their classrooms, schools, and communities. By fostering dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders, this conference aims to empower educators with the knowledge, resources, and support they need to make a meaningful impact on literacy outcomes and help all learners reach their full potential.

Overall, the Read to Succeed Conference promises to be a valuable opportunity for professional development, networking, and inspiration, equipping attendees with the tools and strategies to promote literacy excellence and cultivate lifelong readers. Whether you're a classroom teacher, reading specialist, administrator, or literacy advocate, this conference is sure to provide valuable insights and inspiration to fuel your efforts in advancing literacy education.

This conference is free for teachers across the state of Kentucky. NISD has nine teachers who will be attending this conference June 20th in Lexington, Ky. This conference supports our focus toward improving literacy for our students by grade 3.

## **Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) cohort of the Kentucky Reading Academies**

[https://www.education.ky.gov/curriculum/EarlyLiteracy/Pages/ky\\_reading\\_Academies.aspx](https://www.education.ky.gov/curriculum/EarlyLiteracy/Pages/ky_reading_Academies.aspx)

The Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) has an exciting partnership that brings the LETRS professional learning to educators across the Commonwealth, called the Kentucky Reading Academies. This course of study was chosen because of its demonstrated success on a national scale in bringing significant increases in literacy achievement.

The Kentucky Reading Academies is a comprehensive no-cost professional learning opportunity open to all K-5 public school educators.

Two different courses are being offered through the Kentucky Reading Academies: LETRS for Educators and LETRS for Administrators. Interested educators can join the Kentucky Reading Academies by registering for the course that pertains to their role:

LETRS for Educators Cohort 3: This course is recommended for K-5 teachers, interventionists, reading specialists and anyone providing reading instruction or intervention supports to early readers.

LETRS for Administrators Cohort 3: This course is recommended for district leaders, building administrators and instructional coaches.

Newport Primary Schools has several teachers registered in this 3rd Cohort, including both the principal and assistant principal. Newport Primary School also has teachers and their instructional coach participating in a second year of training from Cohort 2.

## **Model Schools Conference**

<https://www.hmhco.com/model-schools-conference>

The 2024 Model Schools conference is slated to be held on June 23 -26th. Model Schools is a premier gathering for educators, administrators, and innovators dedicated to transforming education and fostering excellence in schools. This event will showcase cutting-edge practices,

research-backed strategies, and transformative approaches to school improvement, with a focus on empowering educators to create learning environments that meet the diverse needs of students in the 21st century.

There will be engaging and dynamic programs featuring keynote presentations from renowned leaders in education, hands-on workshops, interactive sessions, and networking opportunities. The conference will delve into a wide range of topics critical to school success, including personalized learning, equity and inclusion, social-emotional learning, technology integration, leadership development, and curriculum innovation.

The Model Schools conference will provide a platform for educators to learn from exemplary schools and districts that have achieved significant gains in student achievement, graduation rates, and overall school performance. Participants will have the opportunity to explore real-world examples of effective practices and evidence-based strategies that have yielded positive outcomes, and gain practical insights that can be applied in their own school contexts.

By bringing together educators from across the country, the Model Schools conference aims to inspire collaboration, spark innovation, and catalyze positive change in education. Whether you're a teacher looking to enhance your instructional practices, an administrator seeking to lead school improvement efforts, or a policymaker interested in driving systemic change, this conference offers valuable learning experiences and opportunities for professional growth.

In summary, the 2024 Model Schools conference promises to be an inspiring and transformative event, providing educators with the knowledge, resources, and inspiration to create schools that prepare all students for success in a rapidly changing world.

NISD will have teachers and administrators from Newport Intermediate School attending. The practices and school systems learned will be brought back for implementation in the 2024-25 school year.

## **Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA)**

NISD is currently participating in the Kentucky Summative Assessment. Newport Intermediate School, Newport Middle/High School, Newport School of Innovation, and Newport Regional School all have students that participate in state testing.

Kentucky students take the Kentucky Summative Assessments (KSA) to meet federal and state testing requirements. Previously, these tests were called Kentucky Performance Rating for Educational Progress (K-PREP). They are developed by Kentucky teachers and align with the Kentucky Academic Standards in each content area.

KSA are the annual summative assessments given in grades 3 through 8, 10 and 11 to Kentucky public school students. KSA provides content area assessments, including reading and mathematics at all grades, and science, social studies, writing, and editing and mechanics once per grade band (i.e. elementary, middle, and high).

These assessments are Kentucky's measure of student proficiency and progress on the state content standards. These standards establish goals for what all students should know and be able to do in each grade. KSA are online assessments with only a small percentage of accommodated students taking it on paper. It goes beyond multiple-choice questions to include extended response and technology-enhanced items for students to demonstrate critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Assessments provide critical information about student learning, but no single assessment should ever be the sole factor in making an educational decision. It is important to remember that assessments provide only one measure of student learning, but when combined with grades, classroom activities, unit quizzes and tests, and district-level assessments, the end-of-year assessments can help provide a more complete picture of a child's abilities over the course of the school year and path toward academic success on these content standards.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Darla R Payne**

**Chief Academic Officer**

**Katina Brown**

**Director of District Wide Services**