

NKCES Report – June/July 2024

Our mission at NKCES, we connect, grow, and serve our community of educators.

BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

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

MASON COUNTY

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

Executive Director Update:

Deeper Learning Summit, June 9 - 11: Dr. Amy Razor and many educators across Kentucky attended the Deeper Learning Summit. The NKCES Leaders did an exceptional job hosting this event. The speaker line-up and every detail was executed with such thought and precision. The feedback we have received affirms we exceeded the expectations of all who attended. The event was a definite reflection of our mission, vision, and core values.

NKCES Retirement Celebration, June 12: We had so much to celebrate this year! Six incredible leaders who have left their mark on our state were celebrated amongst colleagues. Being part of this celebration and hearing the accolades was so special. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Thank you for your service: Mr. Matt Morgan, Grant County Schools; Mr. Jay Brewer, Dayton Independent Schools; Mr. Mike Borches, Ludlow Independent Schools; Mr. Matt Turner, Boone County Schools; Mr. Jeff Aulick, Bracken County Schools; Mr. Jamie Weddington, Lewis County Schools.

NKCES Superintendent Retreat, June 12-14: Each year, Dr. Razor and staff work diligently to plan and execute a meaningful retreat full of learning and fellowship. This year was no exception. Ms. Tamara Lindholm from ESSDACK joined us again this year to dive deeper into INspired Leadership training. This event always proves to be a time to create strong relationships for our superintendents as they protect this time to invest in each other.

Schools To Watch, June 19-22: Being part of the Schools to Watch Committee, Dr. Razor traveled to Washington DC, to take part in the national conference and award ceremony, which included Ballyshannon Middle School in Boone County. It was an exceptional experience, and one we hope to grow in our region and state!

CBE Press Conference, June 20: The first of two press conferences was held at NKCES, and the second took place at Newport Independent Schools as part of our advocacy efforts against HB2. We were thrilled with the attendance to learn more about such an important topic that will have

a profound impact on education in our state.

Mandarin Program, Nonrenewal, June 28: Dr. Razor worked with her team internally, as well as with Dr. Stacy, the Mandarin Program Director, to move the program operations outside of NKCES. This decision was made by Dr. Stacy, and the NKCES board agreed this move would be the best for both parties.

Momentum 2024, July 8-9: Dr. Razor and several Learning and Empowerment Leaders attended the Momentum Conference at the STEAM Academy in Lexington, Kentucky. The NKCES team led sessions and attended student panels, learning practical insights and strategies to help districts bring their Portrait of a Learner initiative to life. We were exceptionally proud of our Boone, Fort Thomas, and Pendleton educators who presented at the state level!

KSBA Summer Conference, July 18-19: Dr. Razor attended KSBA to meet with a committee on HB2 and possible resources that may be available to districts. NKCES also led a session on the importance of branding for districts.

Leadership Retreat & KASA Conference, July 22-26: Dr. Razor and CAO Melody Stacy led the NKCES leadership team through 2 ½ days of goal setting and planning for the 2024-25 year. We have so many exciting things to share with our districts! This is going to be the best year yet. Once the NKCES leadership retreat ended, the team participated in the annual KASA Conference.

YSA Meeting with NKU President, July 30: The participating YSA districts met with NKU President, Dr. Cady Short-Thompson, to come to a consensus on a new contract for the YSA Program that will best serve the students in Northern Kentucky.

Finance Meeting: Each month, Dr. Razor meets with the business manager, Mrs. Angie Perkins, to keep abreast of finances and plan for future expenses. This month's focus has been ongoing as we prepare for our annual external audit, which took place in July.

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 is being installed to meet the needs of learners. The center will be outside between the modulars 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 building maintenance and upgrades are well underway. The upgrades will include new flooring, fresh paint, floor wax, 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:

June/July Professional Learning: NKCES supported 87 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during May, serving 1,213 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 2023.24 NKCES PL Consortium ended in April and the dates have been set for the 2024-25 school year. These meetings are set to occur in-person from 10 am-12 pm on Aug 23, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 22, Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 25.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 2023.24 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium ended in April and the dates have been set for the 2024-25 school year. These meetings are set to occur in person from 8 am-930 am on Aug 23, Sep 20, Oct 18, Nov 22, Jan 24, Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 25.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 2023.24 NKCES DAC Consortium ended in April and the dates have been set for the 2024-25 school year. These meetings are set to occur virtually from 10 am-12 pm on Aug 6, Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19, Jan 14, Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15.

Professional Learning Networks (PLNs): PLNs provide opportunities for educators to grow professionally in collaborative environments focused on collective learning. Coming soon are our 2024.25 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:

Mrs. Jacki Alexander planned and executed the NKTi (Northern Kentucky Transition Institute) Summer Retreat for teachers. NKCES hosted two amazing weeks of training for high school teachers on post-secondary transition. Post-secondary transition planning is crucial for students with disabilities as it ensures they are prepared for life after high school, whether it be further education, employment, or independent living. This planning helps identify and develop the skills and resources needed to achieve their goals, fostering greater independence and self-advocacy. It also involves coordination with various support systems, ensuring a smooth transition and access to necessary accommodations. Ultimately, effective transition planning enhances their opportunities for success and fulfillment in adulthood.

The NKCES SERTAC team partnered with Learning and Empowerment to host a Literacy Camp. At the NKCES Literacy Camp, more than 75 educators in NKY received training on UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Initiative), the Writing Revolution, and PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) for literacy. The camp included various literacy giveaways for teachers to support their instructional practices. The event aimed to enhance literacy teaching strategies and provide valuable resources for educators. We gained a lot of incredibly positive and valuable feedback about continuing this event in future summers.

SERTAC Team prepares for back to school. The IDEA team has collaborated closely with numerous NKCES districts to prepare for the upcoming school year. They are assisting with classroom setups, conducting trainings, providing resources, and holding meetings to ensure a smooth start. This support aimed to enhance educational environments and equip teachers with the necessary tools and knowledge for effective teaching.

Ms. Brittney Howell led SERTAC Calibration work session. The IDEA team spent 3 days this summer creating a calibrated resource guide to help support NKCES educators. Calibrating as a team is essential to ensure that we support the region with the most up-to-date, evidence-based practices and resources.

This collaborative effort promotes consistency and alignment in our approaches, maximizing the effectiveness of our support. By staying current with the latest research and best practices, we enhance our ability to address the diverse needs of educators and students, ultimately improving educational outcomes across the region.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

In June, Mr. Joe Bertucci met with partners from Learning Through Art, a regional non-profit organization, to discuss resources for member districts. He also participated in an Assistance for Arts Education grant sustainability training, and submitted a report to the USDE program officer.

In July, NKIAE hosted a series of professional learning workshops: On July 22, 120 arts educators from 20 districts attended our *Visual & Performing Arts Summer Workshop*, featuring local and national presenters leading content-specific masterclasses and sessions on accessibility in the arts. On July 23, 80 general/special education teachers from 19 districts attended our *Arts-Based Teaching Workshop*, featuring Susan Riley, founder of the Institute for Arts Integration and STEAM, the world's largest online resource for integrating the arts. On July 24-26, 50 educators from 12 districts attended our *Arts Integration Academy*, featuring local and national teaching artists, regional arts organizations, and collaboration guides for teachers to develop their own, original arts-integrated lessons.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP):

This month, Tai Faulkner began serving as Lead Epidemiologist, and NKISP Completed and submitted Q3 SPARS report. They provided Catch My Breath Trainings across the region, and they met with RISE Academy to consult on prevention programs, including Too Good for Drugs and Violence. NKISP Institute Meeting was on June 18 with Dr. Joan Ferrante as the speaker on the topic of "Navigating Racial Baggage: Building Comfort and Trust in Prevention Programs". The team met with multiple districts to support staff in training and resources. Regional Youth Summit Planning has begun, and planning for Back to School events continues.

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

The Northern Kentucky Institute for Empowerment (NKIE) includes the School-Based Mental Health (SBMH), Trauma-Informed School Supports (TISS), & Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) grant work within the NKCES member districts. This month's work for the SBMH & TISS grants has been focused on attending mental health community partner meetings, participation in federal grant monitoring meetings/webinars, onboarding new grant staff, meeting with districts to assist with decision making for implementation of the SBMH & TISS grants, attending professional learning to broaden our understanding of current research within the scope of the grants, providing guidance to districts as they begin planning for the 2024-2025 school year, meeting with higher education organizations to discuss future collaborations for the SBMH grant, planning for back-to-school professional learning events that grant staff will be leading in some districts/schools, & collaborating with other mental health organizations to plan upcoming professional learning events for educators in our region.

Deeper Learning:

The Deeper Learning Summit brought together more than 175 educators from 16 districts, in addition to educators from Northern Kentucky University and Kentucky Department of Education. The speaker lineup included speakers at the national level along with local speakers; all of whom focused on the various

pillars of Deeper Learning. The Phase III Deeper Learning demographic data was submitted to the state for review reflecting individual district impact numbers.

CRRSA:

The CRRSA team served 13 districts, reaching more than 220 educators. Professional learning opportunities centered on individualized work around New Teacher and Mentor cohorts, PrePARE Crisis Training, Kagan Summer Academy, and Literacy Camp. Some of the recent work includes the Learning Acceleration Specialist (LAS) team collaborating with other NKCES teams to design an ongoing, tiered PL opportunity around High Quality Instructional Resources (HQIR) in the areas of Reading, Science and Math.

Grant Consortium Update:**Grants Awarded, reported in June**

- [FY24 McKinney-Vento Grant Awards](#): Campbell County; Covington; Dayton/Bellevue/Southgate; Newport
- Opioid Abatement Funds: Covington Partners will receive \$225,450 to support mentoring, out of school time programming, and family engagement in Covington, Newport, Ludlow and expanding to other River City districts.

Grants available in June and July included:

[School Violence Prevention](#), [STOP School Violence](#), [Enhancing School Capacity To Address Youth Violence](#), [Strategies To Support Children Exposed to Violence](#), and [EIR Early Phase 2024](#).

The July meeting focused on development of the Education Innovation and Research (EIR) grant, which would award \$6,000,000 over 5 years. It's due July 22. The project would research providing mentors for teachers in years 1-3. The following districts signed on: Beechwood, Bellevue, Bracken County, Campbell County, Covington, Dayton, Fleming County, Grant County, Greenup County, Lewis County, Mason County, Newport, and Owen County. Notification is expected December 31.

Collaborative Grants Pending

- [Strategic Prevention Framework-Partners for Success](#): Two grants submitted, NKCES for Homeless Coordinators and Covington/Erlanger. This grant should start September 30; anticipated award date: August 31.
- [Transition for Youth with Autism and/or Epilepsy](#): This grant was not awarded to us, but our scores were encouraging for an application next year if this becomes available again.
- [School Based Mental Health](#). Start date is unclear. I would guess the announcement of awards will be on September 31 or December 31.
- [EIR Early Phase, Empowering New Educators: A Framework for Effective Mentorship](#). Notification December 31, start date January 1.

Multi-District Grants in Implementation

- NK Institute for Strategic Prevention
- NK Institute for Arts Education
- Project Prevent
- Positive Action

- Trauma Informed School Services
- School Based Mental Health Services

Grant Tips and News

- [Why NOT to Apply](#). This document includes information to consider when making decisions about applying for grants. Vicki will include a link to a google form on future Grant Briefs through which districts can respond about why they apply or do not apply for grants. This will assist in knowing which grants to send for the future.
- 2024.25 school year meeting schedule. ALL MEETINGS WILL BE IN PERSON at 1:00 pm at NKCES. This will encourage networking and sharing ideas about specific grants. Dates are Sept 27, October 18, November 15, January 17, February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, and June 20.
- Grants Consortium representatives [24-25 Grants Consortium Members List](#) . Please review this list and make changes as needed. We need to be sure our mailing list is updated.
- District trainings: Vicki is available to provide training to staff who might be interested in writing grants next year. Training will be tailored to your staff needs.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

- RSP's first day for students is August 14th, 2024
- We have continued to work on building improvements this summer in preparation for the new school year.