

NKCES Report – August 2024

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

BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

Executive Director Update:

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT

Monthly Finance Meeting, August 1: Each month, Dr. Razor meets with the business manager, Mrs. Angie Perkins, to keep abreast of finances and plan for future expenses. This month focused on audit requests from our annual external audit as well as assisting the teams with grants that will sunset in the coming months.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

New Hire Onboarding, August 5: We are thrilled to bring on several outstanding education professionals to the NKCES team! To ensure every member has a successful transition, we invest in a robust Onboarding experience so all are set up for success to serve our districts.

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

KSBA/Education Cooperative Director Discussion of Amendment 2, August 9: KSBA hosted a virtual meeting for Cooperative Directors to participate in a Q&A to provide clarity on questions and to discuss their willingness to be partners. KSBA shared that they have listed “partnerships with coops” in their strategic plan. It was a productive meeting.

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

Monthly KDE, Education Cooperative Meeting, August 12: The monthly meeting for cooperatives is hosted by Micki Ray and provides insights on upcoming initiatives and updates on our partnership. Commissioner Fletcher attended the August meeting and shared his support of cooperatives.

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

The Regional School Program First Day of School, August 14: Dr. Razor visited the school to show support and meet with students. It was an amazing first day for our regional students and staff.

MASON COUNTY

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Introduction to Amendment 2, August 14: KSBA held a virtual meeting because Kentucky voters will decide this November if state legislators should have new authority to use public tax dollars to pay for private education. Does the average citizen understand the potential impact of constitutional Amendment 2 on their local public schools? This free webinar open to all public education advocates offered an introduction to understanding the amendment, the history behind it and how local leaders can cut through the confusion and inform their communities. The focus audience was school board members but KY leaders were invited.

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

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

Professional Learning Consortium, August 23: Dr. Razor joined CAO Melody Stacy, and Learning and Empowerment Leaders in welcoming this important group of leaders back to NKCES! This meeting overflowed with information that included an NKCES return on investment celebration. This

presentation gave each district a visual of both the monetary and intellectual return each district has received to date. We are thrilled to be able to positively impact each member district in this way.

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 the project in the coming months.

RSP building maintenance and upgrades are well underway. The upgrades included new flooring, fresh paint, floor wax, and general maintenance to welcome the students to the first day of school.

Brick tucking bids have been secured but the work has not begun as anticipated. We will keep the board informed once the work has been scheduled.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

June/July Professional Learning: NKCES supported 150 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during May, serving 3,651 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 24.25 NKCES PL Consortium kicked off in August with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [NKCES IDEA/SERTAC Update](#), [NKCES Learning and Empowerment Update](#), and planning for the monthly district share-outs. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 24.25 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium kicked off in August with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Fiscal Year 2025 District Funding Assurances (approved and uploaded by September 30, 2024), Statewide Federal Programs Training (September 10-12), GMAP Progress Discussion, and NEW [Declaration of Participation](#) Timeline (November 1 - Mail Out, November 18 - Due to Us). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 24.25 NKCES DAC Consortium kicked off in August with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Senior ACT - Fall Optional Test, K Screen/Brigance Updates, KSA Data, [Scott Trimble Workshop \(Oct. 24 & 25\)](#), [2023 Assessment Data on Websites](#), and Training PowerPoints Provided by KDE. 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. 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:

The NKCES SERTAC team participated in the State Kick-off with all Kentucky SERTACs. The NKCES Special Education Regional Technical Assistance Center (SERTAC) team recently participated in the State Kick-off alongside all Kentucky SERTACs. This two-day event was packed with learning opportunities, networking, and updates from the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). The team engaged in meaningful discussions, strengthened their connections with fellow SERTACs, and participated in team-building activities that reinforced their collective mission to support special education across the state. The event energized the NKCES SERTAC team as they geared up for another impactful year of providing vital resources and assistance to educators and students.

SERTAC Team helps districts prepare for back to school. Special education consultants, in collaboration with the Learning and Empowerment team, designed and delivered a series of impactful professional learning sessions across several school districts to prepare for the new school year. This partnership ensured that educators were equipped with the latest strategies and resources to effectively support diverse learners from day one. The collaborative effort focused on addressing key challenges in special education, fostering inclusive practices, and empowering teachers with practical tools to create supportive learning environments. This exemplifies the commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in special education as schools prepared for a successful back-to-school season.

Ms. Brittney Howell led the start of the year DoSE Meeting and Book Fair. At the recent NKCES Directors of Special Education Book Fair, directors had the unique opportunity to explore and select high-quality educational resources tailored to their needs. Each director was able to choose two valuable books to enhance their own professional toolkit. In addition, they were also gifted an extra book to share with a colleague in their district, fostering a culture of shared learning and collaboration. This event underscored the commitment to empowering educational leaders with the best resources available to support their work in special education.

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

In August, Mr. Joe Bertucci designed and led professional learning in four districts (Campbell County, Covington, Kenton County, and Newport). Mr. Bertucci also designed and led professional development for 30 teaching artists, supporting effective partnerships between schools and local arts organizations. Mr. Bertucci collaborated with Boone County Schools and The Carnegie to complete a report for our region's Kennedy Center Partners in Education program. Schools currently participating in the AIM program received information and resources, including banners that can be displayed to help keep "Arts In Mind."

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP):

This month NKISP team held their Steering Committee Meeting and met with Erlanger-Elsmere DPP to share vaping prevention resources to assist with HB 142 compliance. Christi Jefferds presented "Current Youth Drug and Concealment Trends" at the Victory Over Violence FRYSC state conference and provided Catch My Breath training to the FRYSC at Yealey Elementary School. Plans are continuing for the 2024 NKY Regional Youth Summit Planning Committee and Subcommittees. Invitations have been sent to all school counselors and FRYSCs of member districts to reserve space for their students at the 2024 NKY Regional Youth Summit, to be held at NKU on October 23. A Regional Catch My Breath Vaping Prevention

Implementation training was given and Back to School events were supported in Fort Wright Elementary, Summit View Academy, Bellevue, Twenhofel MS, Erlanger Elsmere schools, and Holmes MS.

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 Services in Schools (TISS), and Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) grant work within the NKCES member districts. This month's work for the SBMH & TISS grants has been focused on participation in federal grant monitoring meetings/webinars, meeting with districts to assist with decision making for implementation of the SBMH & TISS grants along with providing finance guidance/processes for 2024-2025, attending professional learning to broaden our understanding of current research within the scope of the grants, meeting with higher education organizations to discuss future collaborations for the SBMH grant, planning for and conducting 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, & planning upcoming Youth Mental Health Summits for our member districts.

Deeper Learning:

The Deeper Learning Innovative Teachers were awarded with their materials for the \$1,000 reward that was awarded during the 2024 Deeper Learning Summit. The Deeper Learning team provided district-wide Artificial Intelligence training and Rigor in Tier I Instruction training reaching over 150 educators. Deeper Learning data-gathering began for the final phase of the Deeper Learning grant, and partnering districts closed out the Deeper Learning funds.

CRRSA:

The CRRSA team served 13 districts, reaching approximately 1,700 educators. Professional learning opportunities centered around district wide back-to-school professional learning events to include Trauma Responsive Classroom Routines, Making Learning Visible, HQIR, MTSS, Incorporating Reading Vocabulary, Tier 1 Writing, and more. The CRRSA team has extended participants' learning by meeting with several districts to continue this work through district cohort models.

Grant Consortium Update:**Grants available:**

[Game-On Community Places to Play Initiative](#), due 9-5, \$50,000 to \$100,000, with a 1:1 match, to upgrade athletic facilities in underserved areas.

[Andrew Lloyd Webber Classroom Resources](#), due 9-25, up to \$50,000 to help under-resourced public schools and affiliated non-profit parent groups obtain equipment, instruments, and other materials to enhance theater programs, create new teaching opportunities, and introduce children to theater. Funds can be used for costumes, lighting equipment, musical instruments, sound equipment, or other theatrical resources.

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 or September.
- [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

- Vicki Dansberry, Amy Gilkison, Christi Jefferds, Tai Faulkner, and Mary Burch participated in the National Prevention Network in support of our substance misuse prevention and mental health grants.
- Joe Bertucci, Vicki Dansberry, and other members of the arts grant steering committee will participate in the AEP Convening in support of our arts grant from Sept. 11-13.
- Michelle Lustenberg will meet with several staff members of NKCES to explore ideas for integrating arts, fitness, and mental health that may be fundable 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 was August 14th, 2024. It has been an amazing start to the school year!!
- Our partnership with NKU will begin in September.
- Advisory board will meet in September and the RSP Standing Committee will meet in October.