

# NKCES Report – September 2024

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

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BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

## Executive Director Update:

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT

**KASS Summit, September 4:** Dr. Amy Razor and many superintendents across Kentucky attended the KASS Summit which was held in Lexington. The focus of the meeting was seeking feedback on the state assessment and the legislative agenda.. The time together as KASS provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with colleagues from the 7 other regions.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

**NKCES Team Retreat, September 5 & 6:** 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. Marzano trainers focused on the Wellness Wheel and team members provided input for the NKCES Strategic Plan. This time together is invaluable and proves to be a time to create a strong foundation for the school year and our work together serving the region.

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

**Deeper Learning Sustainability Summit, September 10:** This one-day summit was held on September 10 at the Living Arts and Science Center in Lexington and provided space for state-wide DL Leaders to make plans for future work. Topics for discussion included regional sustainability plans, future Momentum events, and the restructured Division of Innovation at KDE. The guiding question for this event was:  
*How can all cooperatives help ensure the sustainability and relevance of deeper learning in Kentucky?*

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

**YSA Contract:** The participating YSA districts have signed the new contract for the YSA Program. This MOU provides a foundation for the future (2025 and beyond) that will best serve the students in Northern Kentucky. Director Dempsey sent an interest survey to other districts.

MASON COUNTY

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

**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. We also met about long-term goals and the sustainability plan for NKCES.

OWEN COUNTY

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

## Facilities:

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

**Building Update:** As our organization grows, we find it more challenging to host larger groups at NKCES as space is limited. The parking lot is an area of concern and we are seeking bids to resolve this issue. 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 working with Wessel Landscaping to finalize design ideas.

Brick tucking bids have been secured and Houston Brothers will be performing the work that will begin on Monday, October 14, and continue for two weeks.

**Professional Learning (PL) Update:**

**August Professional Learning:** NKCES supported 98 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during September, serving 1,039 educators.

**Professional Learning (PL) Consortium:** The 24.25 NKCES PL Consortium continued in September 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 continued in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Kentucky's ESEA Waiver Request Approved - Title I, II, III, IV, V (Carryover limitation in section 1127(b) of the ESEA for school year 2023-2024 Title I, Part A funds that will become carryover funds on Oct. 1, 2024 (Project K). This waives the requirement that limits KDE's ability to grant to its local education agencies (LEAs) a waiver of the 15% Title I, Part A carryover limitation in section 1127(a) to once every three years. This will allow KDE to extend the period of availability of school year 2022-2023 (Project J) funds for the programs listed below in which Kentucky participates under its approved consolidated ESEA state plan. The period of availability will be extended until June 30, 2025.), Comparability Report Due Nov. 1, 2024, NEW [Declaration of Participation](#) Timeline (November 1 - Mail Out, November 18 - Due to Us), and [Burman Group Training & KDE Updates](#). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion.

**District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting:** The 24.25 NKCES DAC Consortium in September with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Senior ACT - Fall Optional Test, AKSA, WIDA/ACCESS, K Screen/Brigance Updates, Accountability Data - Tentative Timeline, [KSA Released Items](#), [Scott Trimble Workshop \(Oct. 24 & 25\)](#), and [2023 Assessment Data on Websites](#). 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. [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:**

**NKCES SERTAC, led by Jacki Alexander, hosted the University of Kansas for a regional training on the Self-Determined Learning Model of Instruction (SDLMI).** This model empowers teachers to guide students in setting goals, making informed choices and decisions, developing actionable plans to achieve those goals, and tracking their progress. The training provided educators with practical strategies to foster student autonomy and self-determination in their learning journeys.

**A group of regional preschool directors recently met to discuss strategies for problem-solving using the Teaching Pyramid Observation Tool (TPOT).** The discussion focused on how the TPOT can be

used to assess classroom practices and identify areas for improvement in supporting children's social-emotional development. Directors shared experiences, challenges, and solutions in implementing the tool, emphasizing its role in enhancing teacher practices and promoting positive behaviors in preschool settings. Through collaboration, the directors worked to better understand the TPOT's potential in guiding effective interventions and improving overall classroom quality.

**NKCES SERTAC, led by Emily Borchers, hosted Dr. Lauren Evanovich from the University of South Florida (USF) for a two-day training focused on restorative practices and positive behavior supports.** The training addressed academic and behavioral interventions for students with or at risk for emotional and behavioral disorders. Participants learned strategies for creating supportive school environments, implementing restorative practices, and using evidence-based interventions to promote positive outcomes for these students. The event fostered collaboration among educators, with a focus on improving both academic and social-emotional success.

**The SERTAC team collaborated with the entire NKCES team during our team retreat.** It was a valuable time for embracing creativity, celebrating our progress with professional learning standards, and becoming fully invested in the development of our new strategic plan. The retreat is always a wonderful time to solidify our sense of unity and shared purpose as we work together to create a world yet to be.

### **Learning and Empowerment Team:**

#### **Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):**

In September, NKCES received the full continuation award for our Assistance for Arts Education grant, funding year 4 of the 5-year project. On September 30, the program's regional steering committee met to review progress and plan for the future. Mr. Joe Bertucci met with partners from The Carnegie and ArtsWave to plan continued support for collaboration between our schools and local teaching artists. Mr. Bertucci led two regional PLN meetings, one for visual/performing arts teachers and one for teachers integrating the arts into other subjects. He also met with teachers at Conner High School interested in learning more about arts integration. Mr. Bertucci and Ms. Vicki Dansberry attended the Arts Education Partnership Convening in Pittsburgh, bringing ideas from the field back to our region.

#### **Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP):**

This month, NKISP had an in-person Steering Committee Meeting, and attended NKY ASAP's Best Practices in Policy Committee as well as other monthly coalition meetings in the region. The team shared vaping prevention resources with Newport Primary School and presented "Youth Vaping-The Intersection of Nicotine and Cannabis" at the Kentucky School Counselor Association Conference in Lexington. The team collaborated as part of the KPN Executive Board-Fall Conference Committee to make final plans for the KPN Fall Conference, and continued planning on the NKY Regional Youth Summit. They presented Catch My Breath Training to attendees at KPN Fall Conference.

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

This month's work for the SBMH & TISS grants has been focused on participation in federal grant monitoring meetings, meeting with districts to assist with decision making for implementation of the SBMH & TISS grants along with providing finance guidance/processes for 2024-2025, meeting with higher education organizations to discuss future collaborations for the SBMH grant, planning for upcoming professional learning events, collaborating with other mental health organizations to plan upcoming professional learning events for educators in our region, assisting with mental health events in districts, delivering SproutBoxes throughout the region, assembling Calm Corner kits for educators, delivering 300 Calm Corner kits to educators, conducting committee grant meetings, participating in Career Fairs at KY

Colleges for recruitment efforts, drafting grant reports for monitoring purposes, & planning upcoming Youth Mental Health Summits for our member districts.

### **Deeper Learning:**

The Deeper Learning Team attended the Deeper Learning Sustainability Summit to focus on the continual work around vibrant learning across the state after the ending of the Deeper Learning funds. Deeper Learning Phase III data was collected from districts and submitted to KDE. Click [HERE](#) to view the NKCES Phase III Deeper Learning KDE submission. The Deeper Learning team has also been working to design an AI series to kick off in October as well as learning opportunities around Inquiry Based Instruction.

### **CRRSA:**

The CRRSA team served 15 districts, reaching approximately 450 educators. Professional learning opportunities centered around district wide Professional Learning Communities, New Teacher Cohort, High Quality Instructional Resources, MTSS Behavior Supports, and many more. The CRRSA team continued collaboration with other NKCES teams to weave throughout conditions of success into all professional learning opportunities.

### **Grant Consortium Update:**

#### **District Grants News:**

- Kim Corbin escorted Vicki Dansberry around Mason County schools to help Vicki familiarize herself with what she could be writing about and to meet key people who may help plan and write grants.
- Lisa Hans noted that Dayton did not receive the NFL football grant they had been hoping for.

**Grants Awarded:** Continuation grants were received for all current NKCES grants. This includes: NK Institute for Strategic Prevention; NK Institute for Arts Education; Trauma Informed School Services; and School Based Mental Health Services

#### **Grants available**

- [21st Century Community Learning Centers](#) \$150,000 (new) or \$100,000 (continuation), declining in Years 4 and 5. Due Dec. 3. Must have 50% or more Free and Reduced Lunch rate.
- [Baseball Youth Development](#) Up to \$5,000 for improvements. List of specific items is included. Several programs available. Apply anytime.
- [Teaching Art Together](#) Artist fees for residencies up to \$320 per day, 1-10 days. Use [Teaching Artists Directory](#) to select artists. Due Nov 1.
- [TranspARTation](#) Arts field trips to specific KY list of locations. Transportation only. Due Nov. 1. \$2.00 per mile per bus.
- [Andrew Lloyd Webber Classroom Resources](#) Oct 25, to upgrade theatre resources. Schools only can apply (not district). Up to \$50,000. Looking for high needs and stories that predict sustainability.

#### **Collaborative Grants Pending**

- **Strategic Prevention Framework-Partners for Success:** Two grants pending, expected Sept. 30 (no announcement though and it's Oct. 1):
  - [NKCES for Homeless Coordinators](#) 1) Build infrastructures, including staffing and structured meetings and activities by using the Strategic Prevention Framework; 2) Provide access to prevention and mental health resources; 3) Provide access to emergency resources; 4) Provide evidence-based prevention strategies and resources; 5) Provide training and education for school staff and community members.
  - [Covington/Erlanger](#) Provide prevention outreach through community events; mentors; out-of-school-time staff and activities; transportation, financial, and language supports for students

who are uninsured or underinsured; and increased access to existing community resources, e.g., addressing language barriers and cultural conflicts.

- **School Based Mental Health** 1) Build mental health pathways in schools appropriate to their individual needs; 2) Hire additional mental health professionals using an equitable distribution based on ratios of mental health providers; and 3) Advocate for links between state mental health certification and licensing entities and Education Professional Standards Board. Expected Sept. 30 (no announcement though and it's Oct. 1)
- **Education Innovation Research** Provide mentors for new teachers and research impacts of that. Expected Dec. 31.

### **Multi-District Grants in Implementation**

- NK Institute for Strategic Prevention (report above)
- NK Institute for Arts Education (report above)
- Project Prevent-- officially ends Sept. 30, but has an extension to continue the work into the next year in Covington and Erlanger.
- Positive Action -- ended Sept. 30. Many thanks to Kathy Burkhardt for leading this project and to all the district folks involved in implementation. It has reportedly been very successful with schools adding grades to the project and continuing to use the curriculum after funding. Kathy sent a summary of progress and impact: [Positive Action Info and Summary](#)
- Trauma Informed School Services (report above)
- School Based Mental Health Services (report above)

### **Grant Tips and News**

- [Cincinnati Public Library: Intro to finding grants, Oct. 22](#) 10 - 11:30. Please let Vicki know if you would like to go to this and she will join..
- [AI tools for grants](#). These are fun tools, specific to grants, that can be helpful if treated in the spirit of originality and editing.... AI is always dicey but I particularly like the naming tool at this link, and some may enjoy the capacity to reduce character counts it offers.
- Grants Consortium representatives [NKCES Grants Consortium Members 2024-2025](#). This link will be here each month to allow districts to update the list as members change.
- Next month's meeting date/time was changed to avoid conflict with the NKCES Professional Learning Consortium meeting. The meeting will be virtually on October 25, 1 pm.
- District trainings: Vicki is available to provide training to staff who might be interested in writing grants. Training will be tailored to your staff needs.

**PLEASE note date and location change for next meeting: October 25, 2024, 1 pm online at [this link](#).**

### **Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:**

- RSP's annual fall partnership with NKU began in September. They are in our building every Friday until November.
- RSP will be holding Fall Conferences on October 9th.
- RSP's Standing Committee will have its first meeting on October 9th.