

NKCES Report – November/December 2024

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

BEECHWOOD INDEPENDENT

Executive Director Update:

BELLEVUE INDEPENDENT

Aurora Institute Symposium, November 2: Dr. Amy Razor attended the Aurora Institute, which brings together innovators working to transform K-12 education. At the Symposium, attendees from across the education field share best practices and also offer networking opportunities.

BOONE COUNTY

BRACKEN COUNTY

CAMPBELL COUNTY

Finance Meeting, November 7: Each month, Dr. Razor meets with the finance director, Mrs. Angie Perkins, to keep abreast of finances and plan for future expenses. This month's focus has been wrapping up a successful audit and preparation to share with the Board of Directors. We also met about long-term goals and the sustainability plan for NKCES.

CARROLL COUNTY

COVINGTON INDEPENDENT

DAYTON INDEPENDENT

ERLANGER-ELSMERE INDEPENDENT

ElevateNKY, November 8: In response to the negative storyline about Public Education, a committee met to discuss positive strategies to "Tell our Story" for public education with video narrative, data, and key NKY partners such as the universities and colleges.

FLEMING COUNTY

FORT THOMAS INDEPENDENT

GRANT COUNTY

NKCES Team Meeting, November 11: Each month the NKCES to continually focus on our mission and core values. This time together provides a "touchpoint" for building relationships and growing together in our professional knowledge.

GREENUP COUNTY

KENTON COUNTY

LEWIS COUNTY

NKCES Executive Committee Meeting, November 11: Each month the executive committee meets to review the agenda and provide support. The committee also discusses any upcoming events or regional items.

LUDLOW INDEPENDENT

MASON COUNTY

Superintendent Webcast, November 14: Dr. Amy Razor joined other education leaders from across the state to hear from Dr. Fletcher and his team on critical issues as well as statewide initiatives.

NEWPORT INDEPENDENT

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

OWEN COUNTY

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Covington School District, November 15: Superintendent Garrison invited Dr. Razor to tour the new career labs for students. The event was during the school day so that students could participate and demonstrate the models.

PENDLETON COUNTY

SOUTHGATE INDEPENDENT

WALTON-VERONA INDEPENDENT

Procurement Meeting with New Superintendents, November 20: New superintendents were invited to attend a zoom meeting with Mike Wilson, NKCES Procurement Specialist. He reviewed information that would be helpful for their work and also held a Q & A.

WILLIAMSTOWN INDEPENDENT

Professional Learning Consortium, November 22: Dr. Amy Razor joined the PL Consortium meeting to keep informed of current work being done around the region and to share in the book study with this group of leaders. She also shares board highlights to keep this group informed of the work of the NKCES Board.

AESA Conference, December 2: Each year AESA brings together educational service agencies (cooperatives) from around the nation together. This time is extremely valuable as it provides exceptional opportunities to learn and grow with other ESAs around the nation.

ElevateNKY, December 13: In response to the negative storyline about Public Education, a committee met for the second time to discuss positive strategies to “Tell our Story” for public education with video narrative, data, and key NKY partners such as the universities and colleges. A video template was created and shared with the committee. The committee will have a few representatives to meet prior to the next meeting to work on ideas for the dashboard.

Superintendent Holiday Gathering, December 19: NKCES hosts an annual gathering for the superintendents to gather and celebrate the season. Taking time to pause together creates a strong foundation for our work for the region. This event is also a way for NKCES to show gratitude to the board.

NKCES Team Holiday Gathering, December 20: NKCES hosts an annual gathering for the NKCES Team. The time together provides valuable team building for our work for the region. It also is a way to say thank you for the purposeful work that each team member engages in to serve the region.

Facilities:

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.

Professional Learning (PL) Update:

October Professional Learning: NKCES supported 88 professional learning opportunities focused on academics, culture and climate, leadership, and special education during November/December, serving 1,045 educators.

Professional Learning (PL) Consortium: The 24.25 NKCES PL Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [PL Growth Focus - Cultivating your PL Journey](#), [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. There was no meeting in December.

Title I & Title II Meeting: The 24.25 NKCES Title I/Title II Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included [Declaration of Participation](#) (due in GMAP Dec. 15), and [Anticipated outreach](#) (for Title I Declarations). KDE has contracted with Evaluation Systems of Pearson to revise the Kentucky Paraeducator Assessment (KPA), Paras completed the [Revised KPA Feedback and Field Testing Survey](#) no later than Dec. 6, Completion of the survey is not a commitment to participate in the process, KDE will select a diverse group of participants. Policy, Procedure & Process Review & Organization - Holly Kimble, [MC Schools Title 1 Policies & Procedures Handbook](#), Organized review of Policy?, Format - Individual district collection or regional tool?, [Title I Policy, Procedure & Practice](#), and Schedule for discussion. The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion. There was no meeting in December.

District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Meeting: The 24.25 NKCES DAC Consortium continued in November with a collaborative meeting. Topics included Accountability - (Final Data Files in KDE Web Apps, Rankings and Percentages for Website, Superintendent Assurance in GMAP - by 12.15 (Application Supplements & Fiscal 2024 - HB 6 Website Requirements Assurances)). ACT (TAA Open, Select Test Dates in PAN, [Fee Waiver Program](#) and [Eligibility Requirements](#)). AKSA (Window 1 for ATs opens 11/12, closes 12.18, *District Binders - Print error Grade 4 Reading FT Form 2 - use school level binders which are accurate. Updated copies for district binders shipped Friday, QSCS - given during Window 2, SRD opens for TAR score entry on 11.12, TAR quiz closes on 12.20, CWEC and ESAR qualification quizzes will close on 12.20, Teachers must successfully complete the quizzes to enter data in the CRD. ESAR administered by 5.23 & scores entered by 5.30. ACCESS (Window January 6 - February 14). The meeting ended with a member-led PLC discussion. There was no meeting in December.

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 Leadership team presented at learning forward with an emphasis on using PL Standards to build inclusive education. The NKCES leadership team delivered a comprehensive presentation at the Learning Forward conference, showcasing how we are leveraging the Professional Learning Standards to drive our commitment to inclusive education. The session highlighted our innovative strategies and collaborative efforts to embed these standards into every aspect of our work, ensuring equitable access to high-quality learning for all. By sharing real-world examples, we demonstrated how aligning our practices with the PL Standards fosters growth, supports diverse needs, and builds a strong foundation for sustainable change in education. This presentation reflected our unwavering dedication to creating inclusive learning environments that empower both educators and students.

Mrs. Amanda Bell presented at the International DADD conference. Amanda Bell presented at the 26th International Conference on Autism, Intellectual Disability & Developmental Disabilities, showcasing her impactful work on Social Emotional Learning (SEL) for students with significant disabilities. Her presentation highlighted innovative strategies and practices to support these students' emotional and social development, fostering greater inclusion and success in diverse educational settings.

NKCES SERTAC team members are working with Learning and Empowerment to plan the Chronic Absenteeism cohort. The training will be a cohort model to address interventions for students with or at risk for chronic absenteeism. Participants in this cohort will be in school or district teams and will learn strategies for creating supportive school environments, implementing interventions and analyzing current policies and procedures for addressing school attendance.

The SERTAC attended KY CEC. The NKCES SERTAC team attended the Kentucky Council for Exceptional Children's conference, actively contributing through presentations that showcased our expertise. We engaged in meaningful networking with state agencies and built valuable connections with teachers,

emphasizing collaboration and shared learning. The conference provided a dynamic platform to share our knowledge, exchange ideas, and strengthen partnerships in support of exceptional children across the state.

Jacki Alexander and Emily Borchers led the second meeting of the Regional Interdisciplinary Transition Team (RITT). This group meets with the goal of fostering collaboration among stakeholders to enhance post-high school supports for students and families in Northern Kentucky. Through strategic planning and shared expertise, the team worked to organize and execute comprehensive transition supports, ensuring a unified approach to addressing the needs of students as they navigate life beyond high school.

Learning and Empowerment Team:

Northern Kentucky Institute for Arts Education (NKIAE):

In November, Mr. Joe Bertucci submitted the Annual Performance Report for our Assistance for Arts Education Grant; our project met or exceeded all expected outcomes and performance measures. Mr. Bertucci led two regional PLN meetings and a PL Cohort in the Erlanger-Elsmere School District, and he collaborated with various partners to plan the fourth season of our original arts education video series.

In December, along with Kim Thomson from Boone County Schools and Alissa Paasch from The Carnegie, Mr. Bertucci received an invitation to present at The Kennedy Center's 2025 National Community Partnerships Convening in Washington, D.C. The team is excited to represent the region at this national conference in February. With other members of the NKCES team, Mr. Bertucci attended the Learning Forward Conference to support professional learning in our region. He also prepared information for Cohort 4 of our Arts In Mind program; eligible districts are asked to indicate their intent to participate by January 20.

Northern Kentucky Institute for Strategic Prevention (NKISP):

Throughout November, significant progress was made in advancing vaping prevention education and collaboration efforts. Catch My Breath lesson was delivered to 158 student-athletes at Fleming County High School, emphasizing the importance of tobacco and vaping prevention. NKISP Steering Committee convened to discuss ongoing initiatives. Catch My Breath Implementation Training was held at NKCES, with participants from Beechwood, Bellevue, Mason, and Ludlow in attendance. In partnership with the Kentucky Department of Public Health, NKCES hosted a Trainer of Trainer Session for Catch My Breath, which reached its capacity of 15 participants. Additionally, a meeting was held with Carroll County Middle School's counselor and social worker to explore tier 1 vaping education programs, further strengthening efforts to combat vaping among students.

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 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, 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, conducting trainings in schools around the region focused on SEL/trauma/mental health, finishing delivery of SproutBoxes and/or Calm Corners throughout the region, conducting committee grant meetings, participating in Career Fairs at KY Colleges for recruitment efforts, drafting grant reports for monitoring purposes, conducting trainings for the Mental Health Professionals

hired in districts, facilitating professional learning events, collaborating with Character Strong to conduct a regional training at NKU, delivering Red Ribbon Week supplies to schools, attending the NKY Education Council Fall Convening, exhibiting at the KCA State Conference for recruitment and marketing purposes, participating in virtual meetings with other SBMH Grant Directors and the Lt. Governor's Chief of Staff for future collaborative work, planning an additional Youth Summit for the northeastern member districts, & conducting the NKY Youth Mental Health Summits at NKU for our member districts.

Starting on Jan 1, 2025 the main leadership points of contact for these two grants will be:

- TISS - Michelle Klein
- SBMH - Emily Giles.

Feel free to contact both Michelle and Emily with any questions or support you need.

Learning Acceleration:

The Learning Acceleration team designed more than 175 Sproutboxes focusing on Engaging Students of Diverse Populations. These boxes served educators across 21 districts. The Learning Acceleration team provided the second session of High Quality Instructional Resources training with administrators and the content-specific High Quality Instructional Resources cohort through which 12 districts dove into this continuous work. The Learning Acceleration team served more than 1,110 educators throughout the region.

Grant Consortium Update:

Grants available

At the November meeting, the group discussed the following grants available to districts and schools:

- [Reading Diagnostic and Intervention Fund](#) \$40,000 for Tier 2 and 3 intervention, due November 26.
- [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.
- [Comprehensive Literacy](#) \$213,000; \$260,000; \$312,000 depending on district size X 5 years. Questions due Nov. 13, Grant due Dec. 18.
- [Farm to School Implementation grant](#) \$50,000 to \$100,000 over 24 months, 25% match. Due Jan. 10, 2025. Must have NSLP or SBP.
- [Farm to School Turnkey grant](#) \$50,000 over 24 months. 25% match. Due Jan. 10, 2025. Must have NSLP or SBP.
- [Les Paul Foundation](#) \$1,500 to \$2,000 for music/STEAM. Due Jan. 15 or Sept. 15.
- [AMS Young Scholars](#) \$5,000 to \$15,000 for high school summer mathematics programs and scholarships. Due Jan. 22.
- [Snapdragon Book Foundation](#) \$3,600 to \$10,000 for school library books, magazines, etc. Due February 2, 2025.

Collaborative Grants Pending

- Education Innovation Research: On December 20, we were notified that this grant will not be awarded to us.

Grant Tips and News

- [Grant Interest Form](#) will be included with each Grant Brief sent to districts. Districts should respond to notify us of their intent.
- Grants Professionals Association conference report: Vicki summarized her experience at the Grants Professionals Association, where thousands of folks working on grants get together to share

strength. She reported on several sessions about using AI with grants and will practice before sharing details with the group in months to come.

Regional School Programs (RSP) Update:

- RSP Staff delivered Holiday Food baskets to families on the last day before break.
- RSP students were able to shop for loved ones, thanks to NKCES hosting Holiday Shop.
- The Fall Festival was put on by NKU on November 1st.