

Curriculum Department Report to the Board of Education
Curriculum Department Highlights
January 22, 2025

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.

Director District -Wide Services

Summary of Professional Development District -Wide

In our collective effort to continually improve student learning, Newport Independent Schools is committed to providing comprehensive professional development that ensures high standards for all staff and stakeholders who affect student learning. Newport Schools collaborates with schools, departments and other agencies to secure resources that develop capacity for change and ensure continuous improvement that will increase student achievement.

New Teacher Induction-

Monthly New Teachers district-wide participate in induction training with District Administrators, school Administrators and Support staff to better understand our program offerings and guidance on how to participate. On January 15, 2025 New Teachers participated in professional development with Newports Family & Community Resource Center, FRC and Mickinney Vento, MV programs in an effort to foster Family support that thrive in a community where resources, leadership and caring come together in response to real problems and real opportunities. NISD recognizes the importance of the total family in educational success, and we offer Family Resource Centers to help our children meet academic standards. New Teachers learned how FRC's provide support in the areas of basic needs, school attendance. social skills, crisis response and community partnerships.

Additionally, NISD addresses the concerns homeless students face in enrolling, attending and succeeding in school, and the importance of ensuring that each student has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including preschool as other children and youth.

NISD supports include:

Identifying and enrolling homeless students;

- Encouraging regular attendance and continuity in school;
- Promoting academic achievement;
- Providing transportation to school; and
- Keeping open the lines of communication

New Teacher Induction schedule:

[24_25 NTI Schedule](#)

Educational Epiphany to return with Dr. Donyall Dickey and Team

As we move into the new year, our district remains steadfast in its commitment to implementing effective instructional practices that directly impact student outcomes.

On **January 30, 2025** NISD district leadership, school administrators, and instructional coaches will participate in a series of school walkthroughs and debrief with the Educational Epiphany team.

NISD Practicum Teacher Placements:

Teacher placement practicums in Kentucky are part of teacher preparation programs and help aspiring student teachers develop their teaching skills. Practicums can include field experiences, student teaching, and professional learning.

NISD Partners with Northern Kentucky University, Mount Saint Joe University, Thomas Moore University, Eastern Kentucky University, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Cincinnati.

Practicums are where teachers develop their art and craft of teaching by being in a school and working with a mentor teacher to learn how to plan lessons, assess, interact with students, and work in the school environment. Aspiring teachers participate during the semester or as outlined by the University course guidelines that align with their course of study.

For the past few years, NISD has had the pleasure of hosting aspiring teachers within our schools district-wide. This is a required component of an academic program from secondary institutions that provide students the opportunity to apply their classroom knowledge and skills in a real-world setting. Practicum placements are similar to internships, but they often focus more on observation than work experience.

Chief Academic Officer

ACCESS for EL ASSESSMENT

The Kentucky ACCESS for EL assessment testing window has begun. All schools are currently testing their students. In Kentucky, the ACCESS for ELLs assessment is scheduled to be administered from **January 6 to February 14, 2025**.

The **ACCESS for ELLs (Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State)** is a standardized assessment administered in Kentucky to evaluate the English language proficiency (ELP) of students identified as English Learners (ELs). It is part of the federal requirements under the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** to ensure that EL students receive appropriate instructional support and demonstrate progress in English acquisition.

Key Features of ACCESS Assessment in Kentucky

1. **Purpose:**
 - To measure proficiency in the four language domains: **listening, speaking, reading, and writing.**
 - To track annual growth in English language proficiency for accountability and instructional planning.
2. **Assessment Levels:**
 - ACCESS offers tiered assessments tailored to students' proficiency levels, ensuring questions align with their skills.
 - Kindergarten students take a separate assessment focused on oral language, while grades 1-12 have tests aligned to their grade levels.
3. **Testing Format:**
 - Delivered both online and on paper, depending on district preferences and student needs.
 - Includes **Alternate ACCESS**, designed for EL students with significant cognitive disabilities.
4. **Scoring and Proficiency Levels:**
 - Scores are reported across six proficiency levels: **Entering, Emerging, Developing, Expanding, Bridging, and Reaching.**
 - Results inform placement, program exit decisions, and individualized support.
5. **Administration Window:**
 - Typically administered annually between **January and February** to meet federal and state reporting requirements.
6. **Kentucky-Specific Implementation:**
 - Administered by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) in partnership with **WIDA** (World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment).
 - Data supports districts in addressing achievement gaps and ensuring EL students meet both academic content and language proficiency standards.
7. **Results and Impact:**
 - Results help educators identify instructional strategies to improve outcomes for ELs.
 - Contributes to district accountability measures under Kentucky's **School Report Card** system.

The ACCESS assessment is critical for promoting equitable access to education for Kentucky's English Learners, ensuring they are supported in developing English language skills needed for academic and life success. The results of the ACCESS assessment are delivered to districts/schools when the Kentucky Assessment Summative (KSA) data is released.

Implementation of Professional Development on Practice 1 with Dr. Donyall Dickey

As a reminder, our district remains steadfast in its commitment to implementing effective instructional practices that directly impact student outcomes. The professional development sessions with Dr. Donyall Dickey on Practice 1, *Alignment of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment*, were completed in December and are now in phase 1 implementation in all schools.

Implementation of Practice 1 (Performance Based Learning Objectives) monitors and assesses the educators' understanding of the transformational power of standards-informed, performance-based objectives and builds teachers' capacity to:

1. generate appropriate learning objectives
2. critique content and grade-specific learning objectives
3. differentiate between and among flawed, content-driven, and performance-based objectives.

Performance-based Objectives will increase positive student outcomes, as well as, support teachers' ability to design, deliver, and evaluate their instructional practices.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katina Brown

Director of District-Wide Services

Darla Payne

Chief Academic Officer