

Curriculum Department Report to the Board of Education
Curriculum Department Highlights
April 23, 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 Newport Independent Schools leaders exhibit high expectations and guarantee excellence of instruction, ensure equitable opportunities, and leverage all high-quality resources so that students, staff, and leaders maximize their fullest potential.

CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

DIRECTOR DISTRICT WIDE SERVICES

GRANT WRITING:

Newport Schools is leveraging two competitive grant opportunities from the Kentucky Department of Education to enhance academic outcomes in both Reading and Math.

Literacy Grant KyCL25: NEWPORT IS A RECIPIENT OF THE Kentucky Comprehensive Literacy “Welcome to the grant” meeting to be held May 2nd with KDE)

Only 39 districts in the state were awarded the grant!

The **Kentucky Literacy Grant** is a statewide initiative designed to improve reading and writing outcomes for students from early childhood through high school. Funded through federal and state resources—most notably the **Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD) Grant**—the program supports districts and schools in implementing evidence-based literacy practices aligned with Kentucky Academic Standards.

The grant emphasizes a **comprehensive approach to literacy** that includes:

- High-quality instructional materials
- Professional learning for teachers and leaders
- Strong family and community engagement
- Early learning and intervention strategies
- Data-informed decision making

Targeting literacy improvement at **every grade level**, the Kentucky Literacy Grant aims to ensure that all students, including those in high-need schools and vulnerable populations, have equitable access to effective literacy instruction.

Districts awarded the grant receive funding and support to implement a **Literacy Plan** that includes measurable goals, alignment with the science of reading, and collaboration across grade bands. The grant fosters **sustainability** through leadership development, coaching models, and the integration of literacy instruction across content areas.

Ultimately, the Kentucky Literacy Grant reflects the state's commitment to ensuring that every student is **reading proficiently by the end of third grade** and continuing to develop literacy skills that are essential for academic success and lifelong learning.

Numeracy Counts Grant:

This grant is designed to boost student performance in mathematics by funding targeted initiatives that include curriculum enhancements, teacher professional development, and evidence-based intervention programs. For Newport Schools, the Numeracy Grant will provide critical resources to strengthen math instruction, integrating updated teaching materials, focused training sessions, and data-driven assessments so that students build strong numeracy skills alongside their literacy development.

FY25 Kentucky Numeracy Counts Grant

Grant applications submitted March 6, 2025, 4 PM ET

Award Amount: \$70,000 per awarded district

Matching Funds Requirement: No

The Kentucky Numeracy Counts Fund grant shall only be used to purchase approved high-quality research and evidence-based curriculum aligned to kindergarten through grade three (3) academic standards in mathematics and expenditures for curriculum-based professional learning to implement a new curriculum.

Together, these grants not only reinforce Newport Schools' mission to deliver high-quality education but also align with broader state priorities by enhancing instructional effectiveness.

Upcoming Grant Opportunities:

FY25 KYILN Travel Grant

- Grant applications due: April 24, 2025, 4 PM ET
- Award Amount: Up to \$3,000.00
- Matching Funds Requirement: No

The Kentucky Innovative Learning Network (KY-ILN) Travel Grant is intended to support travel to model schools and/or exemplary conferences that promote and concern learner-centered and innovative practices at their programmatic core.

PARTNERSHIPS - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Newport Independent Schools is currently enhancing its Out of School Time programming with the financial support and technical assistance from Partners For Change(formerly Covington Partners). The

partnership creates the opportunity to use a systems-level approach to align the school day to the after-school program, ensuring that student-level data is used to design individual programming. In addition to after-school programming, PFC works with Family Resource Centers in Newport, Covington, and Ludlow to create a network of support to provide authentic family engagement. While FRC coordinators are already doing this in their respective buildings, this network creates the opportunity to share best practices and align resources. Newport Schools also participates in Pink Link through Partners For Change, an initiative to provide period products to any student, at any time, no questions asked. You may find signage and pink totes in all of our school buildings to increase period product access and eliminate the period poverty gap. In the 2025-2026 school year, Newport High School hopes to begin a mentoring program through Partners For Change, providing one-on-one support to high school students to assist with school and life.

The partnership with Partners For Change is still in the infancy stages but will prove to be beneficial for students and families in Newport. It should be noted that these programs and services come at no extra cost from Newport Schools but are provided through Partners For Change and the grants and donations it secures.

STATE ACCOUNTABILITY TESTING

CT Spring 2025 Junior State Administration – Reporting Timeline

With the ACT spring 2025 junior administration now complete, the KDE and ACT want to ensure school and district staff have access to data and reports. Scores will be released as processed by ACT, which will be completed approximately 3 to 8 weeks after the test is administered. The scores will be available within ACT's Online Reporting System. Students can access an electronic copy of their results in the MyACT account.

Final data and reports will be available no later than Tuesday, May 27. Please note that the student results that are available within the online reporting system and MyACT accounts prior to May 27, are not embargoed. However, student-level data is considered confidential and should never be shared publicly. OAA recommends that schools and districts refrain from publicly or internally sharing data until after May 27, when the aggregate results are complete, to ensure accuracy and consistency in reporting.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chief Academic Officer