



Newport Independent Schools

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Meeting Date: August 27, 2025

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I. Executive Summary

In August, I began my role by attending the Kentucky Association of Assessment Coordinators training for new District Assessment Coordinators, followed by a detailed review of curriculum needs across all schools to ensure orders and professional learning were in place for the beginning of the school year. I coordinated with our new science curriculum provider to secure training for teachers, including a full-day session at NKCES. Additionally, I oversaw the Fall Quality Control Data Review window, completing corrections to ensure accuracy in student demographics and accountability reporting. Looking ahead, I am focusing on implementing sustained professional learning, of which reading and writing will be financially supported by the KyCL25 grant, and designing a system for instructional rounds to guide consistent, districtwide instructional improvement.

II. Key Updates & Highlights

A. Instruction & Academic Achievement

- i-Ready

Diagnostic testing has been completed for grades 1-6 and is currently underway for kindergarten and grades 7-9. The results will provide administrators with valuable data to identify student academic needs and ensure that students use the online learning pathway and have opportunities to engage with content within their zone of proximal development. Once the results are compiled, I will collaborate with instructional coaches to establish a system for identifying students performing below grade level. Additional assessments will be administered as needed to pinpoint specific areas of growth, allowing us to design targeted intervention groups. These interventions will be evidence-based and supported by ongoing progress monitoring to track effectiveness and inform instructional decisions.

B. Student Services Programs

- Gifted and Talented

I have been collaborating with Dr. Hemmerle through weekly meetings to develop a comprehensive process and system for identifying and supporting gifted and talented students. Dr. Hemmerle is currently compiling potential assessment options, along with associated costs,

to ensure we select the most effective and cost-efficient tools. This work will allow us to provide high-quality academic extension services tailored to the needs of our gifted and talented learners. Dr. Hemmerle has finished the first draft of a proposed Newport Gifted and Talented Handbook and we have both been reaching out to a network of northern Kentucky educators currently or previously coordinating or teaching a gifted and talented group of students to gain insight.

C. Assessment

- College Admissions Exam

The Kentucky Department of Education has awarded the state College Admissions Exam contract to the SAT, transitioning away from the ACT. However, a formal protest has been filed with KDE regarding this decision. As a result, we are pausing the selection of SAT preparation materials and methods until the matter is resolved to ensure alignment and clarity for our students and staff.

IV. Upcoming Priorities & Next Steps

- i-Ready: Instructional groups and systems informed by i-Ready results will be finalized by the week following Labor Day.

-i-Ready and aimsweb/other assessment data: District- and school-wide data will be compiled and analyzed longitudinally, as well as across student groups, to provide a comprehensive and objective evaluation of our current academic system, including both successes and areas in need of growth. Once these areas are clearly identified, we will implement more in-depth coaching and develop targeted systems designed to directly address and improve them. The results and analysis will be shared with the board.

-Professional Learning: A comprehensive professional learning plan will be finalized by the end of September. We will use a provider identified by Rivet Education's Professional Learning Partner Guide, as mandated by KyCL25 grant, for reading and writing professional learning. An additional plan will support middle and high school math teachers.

-KyCL25 Grant: All required four-year-old screenings will be completed by the middle of October using the Preschool Early Language Inventory (PELI). The grant has provided curriculum resources for our preschool and three community partner preschools (Kradles to Krayons, Bright Days/Early Scholars, and Fun Days) aimed at improving kindergarten readiness. Next steps include staff training on both the PELI and the implementation of Creative Curriculum, also provided by the KyCL25 grant.

-DAC/BAC: The Kentucky Association for Assessment Coordinators recommends attendance at the Scott Trimble training on October 28 in Louisville. Registration costs total \$900 for myself and the BACs from each school. With three of the four attendees new to their roles, this training will provide valuable support. No additional costs, including mileage, will be required.