



# Newport Independent Schools

## MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Meeting Date: April 22, 2026

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### I. Executive Summary

During the month of April, district priorities shifted from the assessment readiness and high-level visioning of early spring toward active assessment administration, rigorous fiscal planning, and continued curriculum evaluation. Efforts focused heavily on overseeing SAT execution, preparing organizational frameworks for Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) testing, and participating in comprehensive spending plan reviews to ensure district-wide financial and instructional coherence. These actions continue to align with our guiding priorities of consistency, coherence, and belonging as we finalize spring testing and prepare for end-of-year transitions.

### II. Key Updates & Highlights

#### A. Instructional Leadership and Coaching Systems

- **Strategic Coaching and Systems:** Building on previous instructional work, I met with our TNTP coach to review and refine my individual coaching plan, as well as the coaching plan for our building principals. Additionally, I facilitated our instructional coach's meeting and met with Jenny Watson from Educate NKY regarding ongoing systems work and long-term leadership development.
- **Curriculum Alignment:** Weekly curriculum meetings were held with Dr. Alex Watkins at NIS, Nick Wilson at NHS, and Nikki Hayden at NPS to ensure instructional strategies remain aligned. Furthermore, I maintained weekly meetings with Dr. Hemmerle to review and support the Gifted and Talented (GT) and English Language Learner (ELL) programs.

#### B. Curriculum & Content Alignment

- **HQIR Investigation and Piloting:** Following our ongoing visioning work, the Math Leadership Team continued their investigation into high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs). In addition, I met with a curriculum leader from Douglas County, Georgia, to discuss an English HQIR they have seen success with, which two of our high school English teachers are currently piloting for one unit. I also checked in with our KyCL 25 grant manager to ensure continued alignment.

- **Innovative Programming and Environments:** I visited the Fayette Regional Juvenile Detention Center to observe “Shakespeare Behind Bars,” a highly moving program where incarcerated juveniles connect literature to real-life situations and emotions. I also toured their educational facilities to gather ideas on how we can improve our own environments to foster a deeper sense of worth and hope among our incarcerated youth.

### **C. Assessment, Data, & Monitoring**

- **Assessment Administration:** I continued close coordination with Building Assessment Coordinators, actively assisting and overseeing SAT testing and accommodations at both Newport High School and Newport School of Innovation. Simultaneously, weekly planning meetings were held with NIS and NHS testing teams to ensure coherence for the upcoming KSA administration.
- **Financial Coherence:** I participated in spending plan reviews for NPS, NIS, and NHS. Meeting alongside the respective principals, Director of Finance Kim Snapp, and Title I Coordinator Jennifer Stewart ensured our federal funds and resources are utilized with consistency across the district.
- **Specialized Testing and Audits:** Dr. Hemmerle and Ms. Oetinger conducted CogAT testing in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade for possible gifted student identification. Additionally, I observed a review of all students identified for alternate assessment that was led by NKCES to ensure our systems are compliant and effective.

### **D. Partnership & Regional Collaboration**

- **KDE and Regional Support:** Mr. Atkins and I continued our work regarding the Portrait of a Learner framework. I participated in an Office Hour for a Lunch and Learn with KDE and Frankfort Independent Schools to prepare. We will be featured in a webinar available to district leaders across the state regarding our Portrait of a Learner process. During the Office Hour, I emphasized that we are in the very beginning stages, and the KDE facilitator shared that it is important for other districts to see that a relaunch is possible.

## **III. Strategic Priorities**

- **Consistency:** Conducting comprehensive spending plan reviews alongside finance and Title I leadership to create shared expectations for compliant and effective resource allocation across all schools.
- **Coherence:** Integrating weekly KSA planning meetings to ensure seamless assessment frameworks and organizational systems across all buildings.
- **Belonging:** Observing programs like Shakespeare Behind Bars to explore inclusive ways to connect with student emotions and real-life situations.

#### **IV. Upcoming Priorities & Next Steps**

- **Assessment:** BACs and testing teams will transition fully from SAT administration into the execution of KSA organizational planning and testing across all buildings.
- **Portrait of a Learner:** Engage community voices through a focus group for the Portrait of a Learner to help shape our district's relaunch.
- **Systems and Programming:** Gather feedback from the high school English and elementary Math HQIR unit pilots.