



# Newport Independent Schools

## MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Meeting Date: May 27, 2026

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### I. Executive Summary

During the month of May, district priorities transitioned from test readiness into the active administration of state assessments, end-of-year pilot evaluations, and strategic professional learning planning for the upcoming school year. Efforts focused heavily on overseeing the execution of the Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) across tested buildings, finalizing selection processes for high-quality instructional resources (HQIRs), and launching the initial stages of our Portrait of a Graduate relaunch. These actions continue to deepen our commitment to consistency, coherence, and belonging as we close out the academic year and lay a deliberate foundation for future instructional success.

### II. Key Updates & Highlights

#### A. Instructional Leadership and Coaching Systems

- **Principal Leadership and System Continuity:** Maintained weekly individual meetings focused on instructional improvement and success principals. These meetings continued until the official launch of KSA.
- **Instructional Capacity Building:** Participated directly in the instructional coach interview selection process at NIS to ensure high-quality support systems remain embedded within our buildings.
- **Systems Improvement Coaching:** collaborated with our TNTP coach, Tiffany Clemmons, in a targeted strategic session focused on guiding districtwide systemic change and refining long-term implementation strategies.
- **Professional Development Mapping:** Met individually with building principals to share next year's professional development framework, ensuring curriculum-based professional learning (CBPL) that is relevant and ongoing for all staff. Following these meetings, principals were directed to collaborate with their respective staff members to finalize their building-specific plans for the upcoming school year.

#### B. Curriculum & Content Alignment

- **Math HQIR Strategic Planning:** Convened with the Math Leadership Team to determine our next strategic steps grounded in KDE's Model Curriculum Framework, utilizing Kotter's Change Model and Knoster's Model for Complex Change as a focus for rollout.

Resources were evaluated focusing on criteria from KDE's Mathematics Instructional Resources Alignment Rubric as well as surveys sent to Kentucky districts currently using the HQIR options chosen by the team. I attended a presentation at NIS to share the new pilot math HQIR of *Illustrative Math v. 360*, and the rollout plan. I subsequently hosted a Google Meet session to communicate the pilot plan and address questions with NPS math teachers.

- English Pilot Evaluation: Met with the NHS English department to analyze ongoing pilot data for *ThinkCERCA* and *Into Literature*, followed by a final review session to synthesize feedback ahead of our final selection deadline of Tuesday, May 26. Resources were evaluated using criteria from KDE's Reading & Writing Instructional Resources Alignment Rubric 3-12.
- Specialized Program Collaboration: Maintained weekly meetings with Dr. Hemmerle to evaluate, update, and monitor compliance and instructional strategies within our Gifted and Talented (GT) and English Learner (EL) programs.
- Grant Alignment: Partnered with Mr. Atkins to review and align literacy grant-funded professional learning opportunities to maximize targeted training for the upcoming year.

### C. Assessment, Data, & Monitoring

- NIS, NHS, and NSOI KSA: Coordinated continuous planning meetings with Building Assessment Coordinators and NHS administrative team with NIS, NHS, and NSOI to finalize security, scheduling, and accommodation frameworks prior to the May 1 testing launch. I facilitated intensive platform training for the PearsonAccess Next assessment tool alongside Dr. Watkins to ensure seamless digital assessment management. I heavily assisted with the direct coordination and on-site administration of KSA testing at the high school from May 1 through May 7. KSA testing occupied most of these days and was heavily prioritized.
- Alternative Setting Testing: Completed required PREA training through the Department of Juvenile Justice to authorize on-site testing assistance at Newport Regional School. I led the KSA testing window at NRS from May 11 through May 15. This dedicated testing window occupied most of these days and was prioritized to explicitly demonstrate to our incarcerated youth that they matter, deserve an education, and will always be treated equitably as students.

### D. Partnership & Regional Collaboration

- Portrait of a Graduate Focus: Participated in a specialized Lunch and Learn webinar hosted by KDE highlighting state-level frameworks and best practices confirming that it is viable and valuable to relaunch a district's Portrait of a Graduate model. I met with representatives from Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES) regarding our Portrait of a Graduate model to establish initial operational momentum for the upcoming district relaunch. We are at the beginning stages of Portrait of a Graduate work. I look forward to including community and staff input into our Portrait.

- Regional Professional Learning: Attended the monthly Professional Learning Consortium at NKCES to seek out external collaboration opportunities, share instructional insights, and integrate state-level guidance.

### III. Strategic Priorities

- Consistency: Standardizing district-wide professional development expectations by collaborating individually with building principals to design localized, curriculum-based professional learning plans tailored to their staff's needs.
- Coherence: Integrating KDE's Model Curriculum Framework with research-backed change theories (Kotter and Knoster) to ensure new math and English HQIR implementations are structurally supported across all instructional levels.
- Belonging: Led state assessment efforts at NRS to actively reinforce that our incarcerated youth are treated first and foremost as students who belong to our educational community.

### IV. Upcoming Priorities & Next Steps

- Assessment: Complete final closeout protocols for the spring KSA testing cycle across all district buildings.
- Curriculum and Content Alignment: Finalize the official NHS English HQIR selection based on pilot feedback and initiate summer onboarding protocols for the Illustrative Math pilot year.
- Portrait of a Graduate: Synthesize regional guidance from NKCES and state innovation specialists to establish community and staff focus groups for the upcoming district relaunch.