



Newport Independent Schools

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Meeting Date: June 24, 2026

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I. Executive Summary

During the month of June, district priorities transitioned from spring assessment completion into intensive strategic planning for the upcoming school year, curriculum procurement, and professional learning alignment. Efforts focused heavily on guiding building principals through comprehensive coherence goal setting, engaging in regional and state-level professional development, and refining instructional frameworks to support career exploration and foundational literacy. These actions continue to deepen our commitment to consistency, coherence, and belonging as we finalize preparations for the upcoming school year and build a sustainable foundation for future instructional and student success.

II. Key Updates & Highlights

A. Instructional Leadership and Coaching Systems

- **Coherence and Alignment Meetings:** Convened with building principals and Mr. Atkins for an all-day, targeted coherence meeting. The team analyzed research regarding TNTP's core pillars of consistency, coherence, and belonging, as well as building and district data. Through a guided process, each principal established a localized instructional goal and engineered a specific, strategic action plan that outlines metrics for success, potential barriers, team compositions, and specific staff assignments.
- **District Leadership Collaboration:** Participated in the districtwide leadership meeting to share departmental updates and collaboratively map out overarching strategic priorities for summer work.
- **Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) Framework:** Met with Dr. Watkins and Ms. Kaeff to review social-emotional learning initiatives. The team determined that regardless of the specific program or framework selected, systemic success relies on embedding SEL into a cohesive building culture where all staff maintain uniform expectations and utilize shared, consistent language.

B. Curriculum & Content Alignment

- **HQIR Procurement:** Met with representatives to obtain and review financial quotes for instructional resources to ensure that all necessary HQIR materials are ordered and ready for teachers to begin the year fully prepared.

- **State Literacy Standards Training:** Attended a half-day training session at the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES), led by a representative from KDE. The session focused on the new Reading and Writing standards, which mark a major and welcome pedagogical shift by emphasizing deep text engagement over isolated skill practice.
- **Read to Succeed Conference:** Accompanied a dedicated cohort of Newport educators to the state Read to Succeed conference in Louisville. Funded through the KyCL 25 grant, this opportunity provided invaluable instructional insights and energized our teaching staff to lead positive literacy changes and maximize the impact of our High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs) within their teams.
- **WIN Group Framework Development:** Collaborated with Mr. Wilson to design a structured framework for the 7th and 8th grade WIN (“What I Need”) groups, ensuring that targeted intervention and enrichment models effectively meet all individual student needs.
- **Algebra 1 Readiness Training:** Participated in a targeted professional learning session in collaboration with Gear Up focused on Algebra 1 readiness frameworks. This partnership will provide actionable strategies to strengthen foundational mathematical skills and ensure our students are structurally prepared for high-school-level mathematics.

C. Assessment, Data, & Monitoring

- **State Data Cleanup and Accountability:** Completed extensive data cleanup in the Student Data Review and Roster (SDRR) system, the state platform responsible for tracking student graduation rates and KSA participation. This process demanded meticulous attention to detail to ensure all students are accurately accounted for in our district accountability metrics.
- **Family Engagement and Data Dashboard System:** Collaborated in a strategic planning session with Ms. Stewart, Mr. Atkins, and Mr. Adams to design a comprehensive vision for district family engagement days. The framework aims to deeply engage families over a prolonged period, offering targeted sessions on critical academic topics, such as the mechanics of how students learn to read and actionable strategies families can implement at home to bridge learning gaps. Following this, the team strategized the development of a localized data dashboard designed to track custom, community-centered accountability measures. This metric system will directly align with our upcoming Portrait of a Graduate framework.

D. Partnership & Regional Collaboration

- **Industry Immersion for Educators:** Attended a full-day regional immersive event spanning Covington and Newport. The experience included touring prominent local businesses and engaging with city leaders. A central focus of the dialogue was the critical need for student proficiency in essential soft skills, such as punctuality, professional greetings, and interpersonal communication.

- Career Exploration Integration: Following the Industry Immersion event, met with Mr. Wilson to strategize the direct integration of these vital professional soft skills into the newly developed 7th and 8th grade career exploration curriculum.

III. Strategic Priorities

- Consistency: Standardizing district-wide leadership expectations by guiding building principals through a structured, data-driven process to define individual instructional goals, identify potential barriers, and establish concrete action plans with clear metrics for success.
- Coherence: Deepening the structural implementation of TNTP's pillars through individualized, data-driven principal action plans that outline clear metrics, team responsibilities, and barrier mitigation.
- Belonging: Equipping middle school students with necessary professional soft skills within career exploration classes to foster self-efficacy, community connection, and long-term workforce readiness.

IV. Upcoming Priorities & Next Steps

- Curriculum Procurement: Finalize all outstanding districtwide curriculum purchases and licensing agreements for the upcoming academic year.
- Professional Learning Frameworks: Finalize the comprehensive professional learning schedule for all staff members, ensuring that curriculum-based professional learning (CBPL) remains deeply relevant, practical, and continuous throughout the school year.
- Portrait of a Graduate Relaunch and Local Accountability: Coordinate and host a community-wide meeting to launch the next phase of our Portrait of a Graduate work. This collaborative initiative will actively involve our teachers, students, and community members to collectively identify and define what is most deeply valued in a Newport student, directly shaping our local accountability measures and data dashboard.