Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

Issue Paper

DATE: 10/20/2026

AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):
Consider/Approve the Second Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between Northern Kentucky University and Participating Districts of the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services for the NKU Votruba Young Scholars Academy.

APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:
01.11 General Powers and Duties of the Board

HISTORY/BACKGROUND:
The Young Scholars Academy (YSA) started in April of 2019 through a partnership with the KCSD and NKU. In 2022 YSA became a regional program and currently serves 7 Northern Kentucky school districts. Since its inception, 547 KCSD students have participated in YSA. NKU, NKCES, and participating school districts currently have an MOU through July 31, 2031 that was approved by the KCSD board in September 2024. The first amendment to this agreement was approved by the board on July 6, 2026 and was for the 26-27 school year due to changes from the 2026 legislative session that removed districts' ability to receive SEEK funds for YSA. The amendment states that NKU will cover the cost of tuition for YSA students for up to 15 credit hours per semester, as well as staffing costs. NKU will also cover the cost of meals for students who apply and are approved for the federal free/reduced lunch program. The NKU student services fee will be waived for all participating school districts. Families will be responsible for the cost of textbooks, any credit hours beyond the 15 hours per semester, and meals if a student does not qualify for free/reduced lunch. This second amendment has been created to extend this agreement through the 2027-2028 school year. Three-year trend data of transportation costs shows an average of $21,830 spent annually. KCSD will continue to pay for transportation at an estimated cost of $22,104.00 in FY 27.

FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:
Estimated $22,104.00 in FY 2027 for transportation costs.

RECOMMENDATION:
Approval to accept the Second Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between Northern Kentucky University and Participating Districts of the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services for the NKU Votruba Young Scholars Academy.

CONTACT PERSON:
Matt Moore

Principal/Administrator *District Administrator* *Superintendent*

Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda. Principal –complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director –if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.

Second Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding Between

Northern Kentucky University and

Participating Districts of the

Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services

for the NKU Votruba Young Scholars Academy

ACADEMIC YEAR 2027-2028

This Second Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding ("Second Amendment") is made between Northern Kentucky University ("NKU"), the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services ("NKCES"), a collective of Northern Kentucky public school districts, and individual participating school districts (each a "Party" and, together, the "Parties").

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into the Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") in August and September 2024, which governs the operation and financial support of NKU's Votruba Young Scholars Academy;

WHEREAS, the Parties entered into a First Amendment to the MOU in June 2026 ("First Amendment"), which modified financial components of the YSA program for the 2026-2027 academic year; and

WHEREAS, the Parties now wish to further amend the MOU to extend the modifications reflected in the First Amendment to the 2027-2028 academic year.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **Dnration of Second Amendment**. The terms of this Second Amendment apply only to the 2027-2028 academic year and not to any subsequent academic years, except as expressly provided herein. The Parties will confer beginning in May 2027 to discuss and finalize terms for the YSA program beyond the 2027-2028 academic year.

2. **Tuition**. NKU will cover the cost of NKU tuition for YSA students from participating school districts (up to 15 credit hours per semester). To receive this benefit, students must apply for the general education and work-ready dual scholarship, with assistance from YSA and school staff.

3. **YSA Staffing**. For the 2027-2028 academic year, participating school districts are not required to pay the per-student cost described in Attachment A to the MOU. During

that academic year, NKU will pay up to $131,910 (plus an additional reasonable amount to cover annual raises approved by Kenton County) to cover the cost of one YSA staff member, who is an employee of Kenton County in collaboration with NKCES. The Parties intend that if this position becomes vacant, NKCES will hire the replacement.

NKU also will pay all employment costs associated with up to three NKU employees who support the YSA program.

4. **Food Services**. NKU will pay the cost of providing breakfast and lunch in NKU's dining halls to YSA students from participating school districts who apply and are approved for the federal free / reduced lunch program. NKU will pay those costs only for students who apply and are approved for the program; students who attend a CEP school still must apply and be approved. Participating school districts and NKU will reasonably cooperate to establish a process for verifying approvals of student applications. Participating school districts at their option may continue to pay the cost of meals for their students, including those who do not apply or qualify for the free / reduced lunch program.

5. **Student Service Fee**. The Student Service fee described in section 24.g of the MOU will be waived for all participating school districts.

6. **Transportation; Textbooks**. Participating school districts will address costs and arrangements for transportation and textbooks for their own students. NKU will not pay costs associated with those responsibilities.

7. **Funding Changes**. If the Kentucky General Assembly or other authority takes action to allow YSA students to be included in SEEK program funding calculations for the 2027-2028 academic year, then the Parties must promptly negotiate appropriate modifications to this Second Amendment to reflect that change, including but not limited to modifications reflecting SEEK funding that is required to follow YSA students, to cover YSA costs, with corresponding reductions in NKU's financial commitment.

8. **Other Terms**. All terms of the MOU not directly modified by this Second Amendment remain in full force and effect for the 2027-2028 academic year.

9. **Counterparts**. This Second Amendment may be executed in counterparts, and by each of the Parties on separate counterparts, each of which, when so executed, shall be deemed an original, but all of which shall constitute one instrument.

10. **Entire Agreement**. This Second Amendment embodies and constitutes the final understanding between the Parties with respect to modifications to the YSA program for the 2027-2028 academic year, and all prior or contemporaneous agreements, understandings, representations, and statements (oral or written) are merged and incorporated into this Second Amendment.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Second Amendment has been duly executed and delivered by the duly authorized representatives of the Parties herein as of the dates documented below.

NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY	**NORTHERN KENTUCKY COOPERATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**
_____	_____
Cady Short-Thompson, Ph.D.	Amy Razor, Ph.D.
President	Executive Director
Date: _____	Date: _____
District: _____	**District**: _____
_____	_____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____
District: _____	**District**: _____
_____	_____
Print Name: _____	Print Name: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____