Newport Independent Schools
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Meeting Date: October 28, 2026

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I. Executive Summary

Over the past month, our district work centered on translating diagnostic walkthrough data and accountability results into targeted, highly aligned support plans for our schools. With Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) status front and center, addressing these state accountability designations is recognized as our highest emergency priority. Deep data analysis has revealed specific building-, grade-, and content-level trends and focus areas that our leadership team is addressing through our current school action plans. Crucially, our external support partnerships, including TNTP and Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services (NKCES), are fully integrated into a single, cohesive instructional strategy rather than operating as separate initiatives. Through continuous site-level principal cadence, structured coaching models, and expanding instructional partnerships, we remain focused on our core commitments of consistency, coherence, and belonging across all schools.

II. Key Updates & Highlights

A. Instructional Leadership and Coaching Systems

- Principal and Site-Level Cadence: Maintained routine weekly curriculum touchpoints with each building principal to maintain operational momentum, review building-specific goals, and align daily leadership practices.
- High School Systems and Leadership Coaching: Continued executive coaching for NHS Principal Nick Wilson in partnership with Jenny Watson from EducateNKY, focusing on organizational structures, systems change, and building-level management.
- Targeted Learning Walks and Coaching Plans: Conducted comprehensive district walkthroughs at NHS focused on evaluating systemic classroom culture of learning and High-Quality Instructional Resource (HQIR) implementation fidelity. Observations confirmed that the culture of learning is sound overall, enabling leadership to isolate specific classrooms needing targeted support and establish individualized coaching plans.
- *Intermediate School Learning Walks: Following the completion of this written report, district leaders will have conducted targeted walkthroughs at Newport Intermediate School to evaluate HQIR instruction and Effective Use of Questions and Tasks. Initial observations will inform building-specific coaching support.*

- State Accountability Analysis and Alignment: Facilitated reviews of state accountability results with district leadership staff and site teams across NHS, NIS, and NPS. These sessions anchored our collective focus on performance metrics.

B. Curriculum, Content Alignment, and Staff Cadres

- Unified Regional Support Plans: Convened strategic planning session with NKCES and TNTP to review recent classroom walkthrough data and PLC trends. All regional and partner support plans are now fully aligned into a single, seamless roadmap tailored to the distinct needs of NHS, NIS, and NPS.
- Instructional Coach Alignment: Led the October instructional coaches meeting focused on deepening unit internalization protocols within PLCs, defining specific coaching delivery models, and analyzing building-level data trends to further inform instructional leadership.
- HQIR Science Implementation: Met with science partner Hallie Booth to outline next steps for OpenSciEd implementation, ensuring teachers receive structured support.
- Mathematics and Numeracy Focus: Participated in the PIMSER Numeracy Counts for Administrators virtual session and met with district teachers enrolled in the NKCES Numeracy Counts Continuing Education Option (CEO) to establish clear expectations and explore classroom implications of the Numeracy Counts framework.

C. Assessment and Data, MTSS, and Leadership Development

- Preschool Universal Screening: Initiated administration of the Preschool Early Literacy Inventory (PELI) across early childhood classrooms to serve as our universal screener, fulfilling KyCL grant requirements and establishing early literacy baselines.
- Intervention Progress Monitoring: Partnered with NIS leadership to review progress monitoring frameworks for students receiving tiered interventions, ensuring instruction is responsive to individual student needs.
- Leadership Networking and Governance: Participated in the NKCES Professional Learning Consortium and the regional District Assessment Coordinator (DAC) Consortium to align district practices with regional standards. Completed required certified evaluation training to uphold high supervisory standards.

D. Community Context and Local Accountability

- Portrait of a Learner Relaunch: Facilitated presentations at NIS, NPS, and NHS to build understanding of our Portrait of a Learner competencies during Family Engagement Day. While overall event attendance was steady, family participation specifically within the presentation sessions was low. Moving forward, we will explore ways to better integrate these framework updates into high-traffic event areas or alternative formats to ensure broader outreach. Collaborated with Alison Teegarden (NKCES) to outline the next steps for the upcoming October 27 community meeting.
- Newport Business Leadership Partnership: Engaged with local business leaders alongside Ms. Kaeff and Mr. Heidrich to establish strategic community partnerships.

Local business partners expressed strong dedication to supporting NHS students through career exploration, career awareness, and resource alignment.

III. Strategic Priorities

- Consistency: Standardizing PLC unit internalization protocols and coaching models across all buildings to ensure HQIRs are delivered with high fidelity and to the intended depth of learning.
- Coherence: Integrating all external partner supports into unified, building-specific action plans aligned with state accountability data.
- Belonging: Expanding local community and business partnerships through Portrait of a Learner.

IV. Upcoming Priorities & Next Steps

- Integrated Partner Walkthrough Plan: Partner with Tiffany Clemmons (TNTP) to align joint TNTP and NKCES walkthrough data into a streamlined, actionable plan for classroom-level coaching and support.
- School Action Plan Implementation and Outcome Monitoring: Establish a rigorous monitoring cadence to evaluate the ongoing implementation fidelity and student learning outcomes of building-specific action plans across NHS, NIS, and NPS.
- Local Accountability Framework: Finalize metrics and qualitative feedback loops for the Portrait of a Learner framework across all three schools.