

TRANSFORMING FUTURES

REGION 5 QUARTERLY UPDATE

SUMMER 2024

As we reflect on the past school year, we want to extend our gratitude to our students, educators, administrators, school staff, and community for your hard work in Region 5. Your commitment to excellence has been the cornerstone of our success, and we are proud of the strides we have made together.

This year, we introduced Transformation Thursdays, a new initiative designed to provide differentiated professional development tailored to the unique needs of our educators. We are grateful for the valuable feedback from our educators and principals on these sessions, which has been instrumental in shaping our future professional development initiatives.

Building on the insights from Transformation Thursdays, we are excited to announce the inaugural Region 5 **Educator Summit**, a full-day event dedicated to **teacher-led** professional development. The summit is a direct reflection of our commitment to empowering educators through collaboration and shared expertise.

During the summit, educators will have the opportunity to participate in four choice sessions led by their peers, with topics encompassing a range of areas. The **Regional Teacher Councils** have been crucial in curating the session topics, ensuring they are relevant and impactful to our educators. With over 30 sessions to choose from, attendees can tailor their experience to their personal professional development pathways.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing efforts and are excited to move forward with this inaugural event. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for our students and our community.

Dr. Dexter Murphy
Region 5 Director



Sallee Reynolds
Region 5 Supervisor



HIGH ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

The Region 5 Strategic Plan elevates the need to provide all students with high academic expectations. The district is centered on providing access to grade-level aligned instruction by engaging all students in enhanced learning and providing opportunities for advancement.

Key Accomplishments

- Worked to strengthen school administrators' ability to read and analyze math diagnostic data and make differentiated plans for students.
- Shared updated information with principals on scheduling and staffing options to ensure every student receives daily academic intervention, support, or enrichment.
- Implemented individualized academic supports through the use of Student Success Passports in Region 5 middle schools.

Next Steps

- Focusing on individualized academic supports in high schools, targeting 9th graders through the 865 Academies.
- Training elementary schools in administering a foundational skills diagnostic assessment to support data-informed small group instruction so all students can reach reading proficiency by 3rd grade.



STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

*At Holston, we have piloted **Student Success Passports**, which are 45-minute mini-lessons on academic and social-emotional skills. Conducted each 4 1/2 weeks by a staff member, students also reflect on their **academic progress** and overall attendance.*

Katie Lutton
Principal, Holston Middle School

STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

Recruitment efforts have been successful at schools across Region 5!

Green Magnet Academy Principal Jessica Holman said the school now has **more candidates** than even before the pandemic.

Maynard Elementary School Principal Shaunna Foster said the Interview Resources were helpful to her in quickly finding important documents, like the **Portrait of a Region 5 Educator!**



RECRUIT & RETAIN ELITE EDUCATORS

Region 5 has struggled to recruit and retain elite educators, and KCS is committed to employing uniquely qualified and highly effective teachers in Region 5 and retaining them with ongoing strategic support.

Key Accomplishments

- All Region 5 schools are above 85% staffed for the 2024-25 school year.
- Finalized an Interview Resources package for school administrators.
- Released a Leadership Toolkit to principals with information on distributed leadership and supporting individual and team growth.

Next Steps

- Intentionally focus on retention through culture and leadership.
- Intentionally focus on the Portrait of a Region 5 Educator to support growth with current staff while recruiting new staff.

COLLEGE AND CAREER PATHWAYS

College and career pathways to prepare Region 5 students for high school and beyond have long been inadequate. Now, career exposure begins in preschool and continues through graduation.

Key Accomplishments

- Completed Q4 Transformation Thursdays where every teacher participated in Design Thinking training.
- Drafted a College & Career Readiness rubric for schools to assess where they are for every student to be on a career pathway.
- Finalized a needs assessment in elementary and middle schools to determine where they are in career awareness and career exploration.

Next Steps

- Applying for candidacy to bring the International Baccalaureate program to Region 5 schools.
- Working with high schools to increase participation in Advanced Placement and dual enrollment courses.
- Preparing elementary and middle grades school-based communication with plans on how schools are incorporating career awareness and exploration in their curriculum.



STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

*At Lonsdale, we are working to connect with the **865 Academies** through collaboration with **Fulton High**. We want every student to be prepared for their future in high school and once they graduate. We are planning to have **student ambassadors** come to our **College & Career Fair** to speak with our older students about the pathways available to them. We are excited to continue providing unique opportunities for college and career exploration for the students at Lonsdale!*

Lorle Young

School Counselor, Lonsdale Elementary School

STRATEGY IN PRACTICE

At Sarah Moore Greene, we built a community using a **house system**. We celebrate attendance and pour positive affirmations into our students on **House Hype Wednesdays**.

Sarah Moore Greene is **six houses - one family!** Our students get excited, which in increases our attendance.

Robin Curry

Principal, Sarah Moore Greene Magnet



MEETING WHOLE-CHILD NEEDS

Region 5 has refocused the support for students by strengthening their implementation of a Whole Child Support Team in each school. These multi-disciplinary teams tailor Tier 1 supports to students in the areas of academics, behavior, emotional needs, and social skills.

Key Accomplishments

- Held end-of-year Whole Child Support Team training to provide schools with an opportunity to begin planning for the 2024-25 school year.
- Continued into Phase 4 trainings with IIRP at Maynard, Greene, SMG, Vine, and AE.
- SMG effectively integrated attendance into their house system and promotes good attendance in weekly assemblies.
- Maynard grew its participation in the Whole Child Support Team and improved the team's efficiency this year.

Next Steps

- Organizing professional development opportunities for the 2024-25 school year with Region 5 leadership.
- Planning for Attendance Summit, scheduled for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, to ensure fidelity and accuracy in attendance reporting.

The Region 5 Way

TRANSFORMING FUTURES - THE REGION 5 WAY

Region Five is championing our students with the courage and skill to move forward and thrive in tomorrow's world! Follow our progress and find contact information for the Region 5 Support Team at knoxschools.org/Region5.



Dr. Andrew Brown
Assistant Superintendent of
Student Success



Dr. Dexter Murphy
Region 5 Director



Sallee Reynolds
Region 5 Supervisor