

Convocation and August Schedule - Welcome Back!

Liz Butterfield • 13 days ago • Tuesday, Aug 13 at 4:35 PM • North Country Supervisory Union, School Boards - All



#NCSUcommunity

Welcome Back NCSU!

August 2024 Schedule

New Teacher Orientation

August 15 & 16

8:00 - 4:00 In-person at Coventry Village School



NCSU Convocation

August 20, at your school

8:00 - 9:00 NEKEA Virtual Meeting (Link will be provided by NEKEA)

9:15 - 10:15 Virtual Welcoming Address and Guest Speakers

[Link to join livestream Convocation](#)

10:15 Principals plan the remainder of the day (optional [BINGO](#) for prizes!)



Day 1 SU-wide Professional Learning Strands

August 21, 8:00 - 3:30 w/ 1 hr lunch (on your own)

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LOCATIONS & DETAILS



School-Based Inservice Days/NEKEA Day

August 22, 23, 26

In-person at each school (Principals school-based time)

For future reference:

[NCSU Professional Learning and Meeting Schedule 2024-2025](#)



Day 1 SU-wide Professional Learning Strands

August 21, 8:00 - 3:30 w/ 1 hr lunch (on your own)

Important Resources for August 21st:

[Training Locations](#)

(this doc includes links to join virtual sessions)

Some locations are subject to change,
please confirm your location the day before!

[NCSU Professional Learning Path](#)

Forgot what you registered for? Not registered yet?

Check your email from “noreply@pl.powerschool”

or Log into [Professional Learning](#),

Click “Courses”,

scroll down to “my courses”.

If there are no courses shown,
you must attend one of the following trainings:

If you are an unregistered new teacher:

Elementary Responsive Classroom (grades K-6) or

Middle School RC (grades 5-8) or

Making Learning the Goal (grades 9-12)

If you unregistered but are not a new teacher:

Functional Skills (Social Cognition, OT, Executive Functioning)

For future reference:

[NCSU Professional Learning and Meeting Schedule 2024-2025](#)

Dear Colleagues,

After so much rain last summer, I was hopeful that we would have more sunshine this year. Although we did have more sunshine, we definitely got more than our fair share of rain – and some of us received devastating amounts of rain. We are used to monitoring weather in the winter for potential snow days, but it is a new reality that we are monitoring weather forecasts during the summer for potential flash flooding or washouts. If you have had to contend with flooding challenges for your own home or family, I'm sending my very best thoughts to you and yours for recovery and rebuilding.

In addition to not having the amount of sunshine we wished for, the summer took a decidedly more challenging turn with the PCB test results in B wing (the academic wing with most of the classrooms) at North Country Union High School (NCUHS) at the end of June. When we started the summer, we knew that we would have a \$3 million mitigation project happening in C wing which is primarily North Country Career Center and a few high school classrooms. With the increased PCB levels in B wing, the project's scope grew to include B wing, and the cost went up to \$5.9 million. Because of the timing of the work completion and having to wait for test results, it will put us right up against the opening of school. Although we are hoping for better results, hope isn't a strategy, so the NCUHS administration and staff are working on contingency plans for opening in-person in as quick and as safe a way as possible. Not opening or remote instruction were not on the table as options as we know how harmful this is for students and teachers. We also recognize that this entire situation has created a lot of anxiety and stress for many of us, including families and students in addition to teachers and staff. Everyone involved is doing their absolute best to try to minimize disruption and anxiety in a less-than-ideal situation.

Since we can't all be at the high school for Convocation, we will be having a much shorter virtual option for the beginning part of Convocation and the rest of the day will be with your principals. I'm sure you already know what that plan will be for the opening day – and likely you're not broken-hearted that you will be at your schools on the first day back to work!

Last year at this time, we had 7.9 open certified positions across NCSU, but many of those were classroom teaching positions. This year, we have exactly the same amount of open positions, but most of those are part-time unified arts teaching positions (i.e. 60% music or 40% art). This statement should not be interpreted that we don't value music or art teachers, but rather that we are moving in the right direction for being able to fill full-time teaching positions. Certainly not having an art or music teacher will impact all teaching staff at the schools affected, but I know that your principals are working on a short-term solution for filling the gap and will share that with you if they haven't already. Support staff openings are also less than they were last year at this time with approximately 16 – 18 open positions versus the 25 or so from last summer. I am getting emails from principals on a daily basis asking for permission to hire support staff candidates, so I am confident that this number will shrink as we get closer to the beginning of school.

Lastly, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your continued work and advocacy for our students, families, and schools. During our conversations about culture and climate across NCSU in the spring, it was clear that you are extremely committed to your work, that you have many things to appreciate and celebrate in your school communities, and that we still have work to do to improve our schools. We have forward-facing documents summarizing the data that have been shared with principals and are in the process of being shared with boards. If you haven't seen the data from your individual school, talk with your principal about sharing it with you. There are themes across individual schools and the entire supervisory union that have helped us to develop a vision and goals for how we can move forward in a more positive way.

I look forward to another year of continuing our work together and wish you the very best for a smooth opening – see you all in your schools soon!

Sincerely,

Elaine Collins,
NCSU Superintendent of Schools

August 2024

Dear NCSU Staff,

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! I hope you had the chance to relax, recharge, and enjoy the few dry pockets of summer we were fortunate to have. 😊 This is a great time to be part of NCSU. If you're new, welcome to the largest supervisory union in Vermont, where we're committed to fostering Character, Competence, Creativity, and Community. If you're returning, welcome back!

The start of the school year is always exciting. Even after 25 years in education, I still wake up with butterflies on the first day of school, just as I did in kindergarten. Funny how some things never change!

As a classroom teacher for over 12 years, I focused on creating a supportive learning environment where students celebrated each other's successes, lifted each other up during tough times, and honored what made each person unique. As a building principal for 13 years, I extended this philosophy to the entire school community. During the challenging times of COVID, I often found myself saying, "It takes a village," a phrase that still holds true today and guides me in this new role.

Since joining NCSU as Assistant Superintendent on July 1, I've had the pleasure of meeting many incredible people across our schools and community. What's clear to me is that everyone is committed to doing their best work, as shown by the many staff who wore different hats this summer to help wherever needed. This dedication keeps our village thriving!

I'm excited to work closely with your building principals and hope to pop into your classrooms from time to time to celebrate the great work you're doing. A big part of my job will be focusing on all things grant-related, along with ensuring that all systems run smoothly. Simply put, I'm here to support YOU and all the amazing work YOU do. Please feel free to reach out to me directly if there's an exciting event or a project that your students are passionate/proud about—I'd love to see the celebration of learning.

With much respect and gratitude for all that you do,

Jennifer W. Nye
Assistant Superintendent NCSU
jennifer.nye@ncsuvt.org
(802) 334.5847 ext. 2032

[Tuesday, Aug 20 at 8:33 AM]

Happy Convocation Day!

Convocation Speeches begin at 9:15 a.m.

Don't forget to use the link to the BINGO card to win great prizes.

Grand Prize: Pizza Oven/Air Fryer valued at \$200!

Send me pictures! NCSU.socialmedia@ncsuvt.org
#NCSUcommunity

[Tuesday, Aug 20 at 8:56 AM]

Links to Convocation Opening Speeches and the Agenda:

Link to the Convocation Speeches: <https://stream.meet.google.com/stream/06adf86d-8712-473e-a96c-32b04e3b5e56>

Link to Agenda: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1OYUN37-ANQfcK23yNvmUf3aYzE4x3PWol9G02aRgJD0/edit?usp=sharing>