

Summary of the August 2021 for KY K-12 Education Technology Leaders' Virtual Meeting

In case you missed it or want a refresher, the following is what we talked about during the August 17, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at:

<https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2021/08/edtech-webcast-august-2021/>.

Public viewing of the archived webcasts and written summaries are also available on the KDE Media Portal at: <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/>. Numbers in **RED** indicate the timestamp for that portion of the discussion so it can be easily located on the full digital recording.

This was a virtual meeting with our OET staff and all the districts joining via Microsoft Teams and/or YouTube. We will continue to make these available from our KDE media portal so that you can watch the archived discussion and share with the appropriate people in your district. Several GoSoapBox poll questions were posed throughout the meeting and district EdTech leaders were asked to respond to all the questions as it assists us in planning and getting a feel for how to best move forward. Your voice and your feedback are important and extremely helpful to us.

We hope that you were able to take some time off over the summer to rest and recharge. If you weren't able to join us for our June or July webcasts, please take time to go back and review the summary notes to help bring you up to speed as the school year is beginning. We spent some dedicated time going over our CIO Summit feedback as well as a deep dive into the materials for our annual presentation to the Kentucky Board of Education. This information will be beneficial to you as you enter discussions and continue planning for education technology initiatives in your schools and district.

(6:23) KY K-12 EdTech Funding Update –

- **KY Board of Education** – On August 5th, the KBE approved the disbursement of our \$15.M in KETS funding. As part of that, we shared the KY K-12 education technology need of \$366M in SY2021-SY2022, the \$356M in funding sources to address those needs and the KETS Offers of Assistance for this school year. The final documentation that we covered in detail last month were shared along with the agenda for today's virtual meeting for reference. During our presentation, the updated KETS Timeline was also shared to show the historic successes of the KETS program. We also discussed our Additional Budget Request (ABR) for the upcoming legislative session that begins in January 2022. We will give this our best at bat and we will need your support as we continue to work toward re-establishing and increasing this baseline. We are in a good position right now, but once the temporary federal funding is no longer available, we will be back to our pre-pandemic situation regarding our budgetary funding.
- **\$7.1B in Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF)** - There are \$7.1B ECF funds available through ARP ESSER. These funds are primarily to purchase computers for those students who do not already have one and to provide last mile connectivity beyond the school campus. The initial application window is closed, but they are considering an additional/extended window to apply for these funds. We will share any details we receive regarding possible extensions or second windows and we are trying to determine the extent and details of the applications across the state.

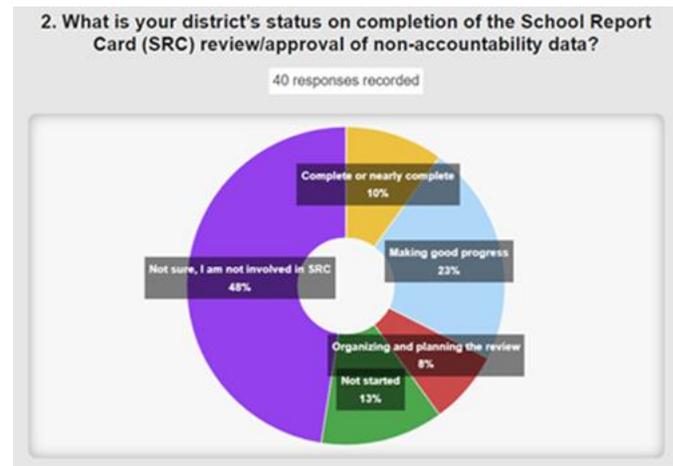
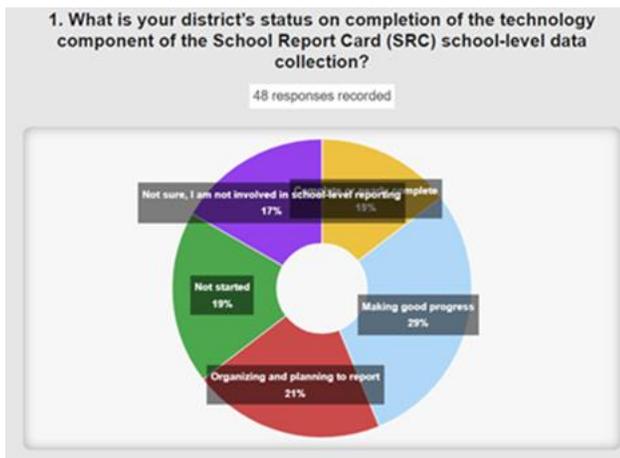
3. Did your district apply for a portion of the \$7.1B federal Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) funds; if so, what was the primary category?

51 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes -- Eligible Equipment (devices, hotspots, modems, routers)	15	29%	
Yes -- Eligible Services (DSL, cable modem, fiber or wireless)	2	4%	
Yes -- Mix of Equipment and Services	8	16%	
No, we did not apply for ECF funds	26	51%	

(14:15) KY K-12 EdTech Data Reports Due (Reminder/Refresher) – We thought this would be a good time as the school year is beginning to go over the data collections/timelines for the required planning documents and data collections that are due each year:

- MUNIS Technology Activity Report (TAR) - EdTech funds spent last school year by districts is obtained through the MUNIS technology activity report (TAR) by late September each year. This is a major plus of having all districts using the same financial management program. Some items using federal funds may not fall into a current commodity code and we actually don't want to capture items that do not reduce the KETS unmet need. These items should be tracked; they will be required in some format as part of the federal funding reporting requirements.
- KY K-12 Digital Readiness Report - We used to collect this later in the year and, at your request, began completing this collection earlier. We use this information in a variety of documents and it helps build our KETS Infographic. Getting this in early is extremely helpful and we have a target date of September 15th. We have both inventory-type questions and programmatic questions. New positions are still being added as school begins and we look forward to pulling all that data together and seeing what the latest trends are telling us.
- KY K-12 District Technology Planning NLT 31 July - This is a requirement as part of the KETS Offer of Assistance program. We have received all of these now.
- Annual KY K-12 Cybersecurity Report NLT 31 August - This requirement is in statute and we are nearing the deadline for this annual reporting requirement. We will remind you each year as the deadline approaches and we have resources and tools available to assist in preparing this annual requirement to your local boards. This does help you educate and bring attention to the current cybersecurity health of your districts as well as a platform to share/discuss areas of weakness/greater risk. It is not a good idea to present this in an open forum—if this is the only opportunity you have to present this, provide high level details only and send the details with the background materials to the board separately.
- KY K-12 School Report Card (Technology Section) NLT 31 August - This is the current timeframe and we believe this may be pushed out a little further this year. This is a school level data collection. It will probably stay open until mid-September. According to the poll results, progress is being made; please reach out to us if you need assistance.



- Annual Top 5 Feedback 2021 NLT 1 December – We find your annual feedback extremely valuable to us and we appreciate you taking the time to provide meaningful and thoughtful feedback at the end of each calendar year to assist us in setting our priorities and goals for the coming year.

All of these tools/data reporting requirements are used throughout each year and they (a) allow folks in districts/communities to compare their district to others around them or similar in size/demographics (e.g., online digital trends tool, school report card), (b) are used for providing (e.g., KETS funds) and requesting EdTech funding (e.g., additional budget requests), and (c) are used for planning and reporting (during annual legislative session, for statewide planning/initiatives, for research/study requests (e.g., current KY Office of Education Accountability study/report on NTI, current KY legislative research committee study on Internet access in KY). We will continually review and revised our data needs to ensure we are being frugal in how much data we request and keep us all on a healthy data diet.

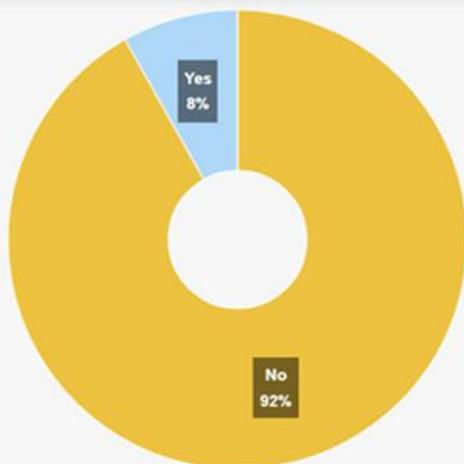
(28:57) KY K-12 Technology Enabled Initiatives Update –

- Lightspeed Relay Implementation – This effort is complete; we were able to do this quickly since we were implementing four/five districts per day.
- Active Directory hardware refreshes are rolling along in the same manner.
- Firewall Replacement – These are underway and moving along very well.

Many of our current projects revolve around improving security and we've talked about how we can make continuous improvements. We have been in a planning phase for the last 12 to 15 months and we are now prepared to begin rolling these out in the next few weeks. Bob prefaced the following question and explained that we do have a schedule prepared to implement some firewall changes, especially with Geoblocking. Cyber attacks have increased dramatically in intensity, sophistication and frequency before and during the pandemic. This would not prevent you from going to data in another country but it WILL keep them from getting to a workstation in your district; the majority of these are not friendly attempts to reach you.

4. Does your district have teachers, staff, students or vendors who must connect to LOCAL district resources (not CLOUD district resources such as Office 365, Google, or external KETS Network services) regularly from OUTSIDE of the U.S.? If your response is YES, then also please leave a comment as to how big of a deal this is to your district, such as whether it's lots of folks and/or critical service or something that's a convenience/could be lived without or could be done another way.

49 responses recorded



(35:59) Equity Dashboard Update – This is intended for administrators at the school and district level and it has limited licenses. It will roll out next month with current year data. This was presented to the Kentucky Board of Education and well received. DeDe Conner brought up and shared the dashboard if you want to follow along on the video to see the sections and views that are available. The views are available in multiple formats and available statewide as well as by district and by school. Within a dashboard view, the data may also be filtered and sorted. Training will be made available.

(39:47) KY K-12's Digital Driver's License (DDL) Update - The DDL is an optional course for digital citizenship for our KY K-12 students and adults that has been of great value in the past and will continue to be part an important of our KY K-12 cybersafety toolbox going forward. Kentucky was an early adopter of the Digital Driver's License program and all our students are required to complete this before receiving a mobile device. There was a cyberattack on the DDL database at the University of Kentucky (UK) in the June timeframe. The data stored for the DDL is not considered a FERPA violation. UK has sent out a communication about the cyberattack to superintendents.

Going forward, we will work with UK to put the following in place:

- Single Sign On (SSO) – Implement this going forward to avoid having email addresses/passwords stored; a majority of users are already using SSO.
- UK is also going to move the DDL service to the Azure cloud. The DDL service is currently offline and it may be up to a month before it is available again in the more secure environment.

We have had this partnership with UK for over a decade and we will continue to support this. We initially started this project at the federal level tied to CIPA. Also worth noting, we have put the same federal language into our state Superintendent Assurances. Inside the DDL, there are also additional learning modules that include Digital Citizenship, Civics, and teacher professional development.

(51:03) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:

- The Infinite Campus contract has been extended for five years or until November 2027. This is good news.
- Becky Jenkins, KSIS service manager, retired as of August 1st. Becky did a great job for us and we are going to miss her!
- New reporting for 2021-2022. There is a requirement to report students who are doing the supplemental school year. This is a new program indicator and there is also a new exempt code for students in quarantine that are still receiving instruction.
 - Supplemental School Year Program - SSYP & SSYG Program Indicators
 - New Exempt Code for Students Quarantined
- Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) - KDE will assist districts with the CRDC data preparation and load for the 2020-2021 school year. Please go to the [KDE Civils Rights Data Collection Information webpage](#) for information, including announcements, changes, the new data element, the updated CRDC forms, timeline, and contact information. There will be a collection for both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. We will continue to support districts and provide as much data as we can. We will continue to update KDE CRDC webpage, so please continue to check that page for updates.
- For details on the following training opportunities and SQL courses, go to the [KSIS Training webpage](#).
 - Infinite Campus National Training Events
 - Oct. 11-22 KY – Mastering Campus, self-paced eLearning
 - Nov. 4-5 – Ky. Interchange, Omni Louisville Hotel
 - Nov. 15-19 – Virtual National Training Week, \$499 per district
 - Sept. 21, 28 and 30 – Virtual Infinite Campus KY fall user groups sessions
- US Department of Education training opportunity:
 - Aug. 26 – Virtual Meeting: Return to School – Addressing Privacy and Security Challenges in K-12 Education in the Wake of COVID-19, 1-5 p.m. (ET). Go to [Meeting Registration | Return to School Virtual Meeting](#) to register by Aug. 24.

(54:44) Virtual Learning Options Update – Several months ago we launched a regulatory waiver opportunity for our districts to develop online and virtual full-time enrollment options for K-12; before that time we did not have an option for our K-5 students for performance-based learning. We discussed this at the CIO Summit as well. 109 districts apply for the waiver and were approved; however, the board gave our Commissioner the ability to approve additional waivers. The waiver requires acceptance of the 15 assurances included in the application. We now have 126 districts that have applied to build a program for student to receive fulltime, ADA, SEEK-based virtual instruction.

Now we are working through local plans for when our students are in a quarantine situation. We also now have an emergency regulation in place to help address quarantining students and staff. When our students are quarantined, there are now IC codes that allow you to code those students as still receiving instruction. Please talk with your DPP on this. When we are servicing students remotely, remember that there are strong best practices. We do want to continue to keep them connected to the classroom teacher and engaged with what is going on in the classroom. Minimum instructional hours is the total instructional time—there are a lot of ways to get at that and it's not all about sitting in front of the camera.

5. Has your district developed and communicated a strategic game plan for the continuation of learning (with AADA funding) of your students if/when placed in quarantine, due to a COVID-19 exposure?

38 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes, we have a plan and our school leaders, teachers and parents are ready	18	47%	
Yes, but we are still working on distributing it out to our school leaders, teachers and parents	8	21%	
We are developing a plan now	9	24%	
We do not yet have a plan	3	8%	

Laura Raganas is working with schools on these plans and we encourage you to look to other districts on how they are implementing their plan. If you need help, please reach out and let us know.

As we began today's webcast, we added an additional question to gauge this year's school year to last year based on the CIO involvement in terms of work and education technology leadership. There will be an "unofficial" discussion after the end of the webcast for those who want to stick around and discuss.

6. How similar or different is this school year compared to the last school year (in terms of your work and leadership in education technology)?

37 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Very similar	10	27%	
Somewhat similar	11	30%	
Somewhat different	11	30%	
Very different	5	14%	

Thanks again for joining us today and we'll see you in September.