

Summary of the December 2020 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 December 15, 2020 edtech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/featured/2020/12/edtech-webcast-december-2020/>.

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.

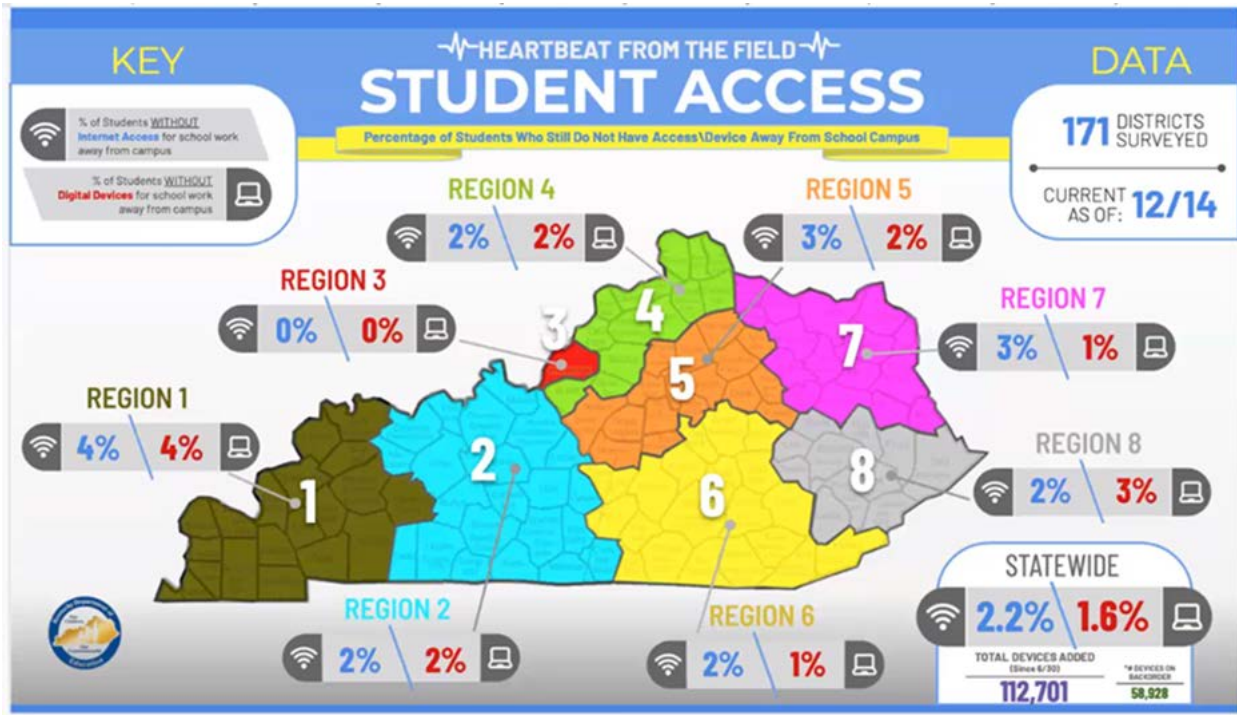
(7:22) Heartbeat from the Field –Today, we have a few districts joining us virtually to share their current experiences with technology and connectivity while navigating the challenges with Covid-19 and the virtual learning experience. We will also provide an update to some of the “heartbeat” information that we are collecting and updating/comparing monthly.

- **(8:01) Murray Independent (with CIO/EdTech Leader Rusty Back):** Murray Independent currently has 1,071 Chromebooks on order and they will be at a 1:1 implementation when those are received and given to students. Many students had personal devices or the use of a personal device, but the federal funds provided the opportunity to complete the 1:1 initiative. Servicing the devices is an issue and break/fix and troubleshooting is falling to the teachers, especially when the district is in the virtual learning environment.
- **(12:58) Whitley County (with Supt John Siler):** The need for education technology has never been more evident and OET is appreciated! Since the color-coded map was initially introduced, Whitley County has been red. The vision statement for the district is to always put kids and the community first. They were one of the first in their area to have a 1:1 initiative with Chromebooks and they had the support of their principals and site-based councils. The middle and high schools have been 1:1 for the last four years. Before Covid hit, the elementary schools had begun working toward the 1:1 implementation. After Covid began impacting learning, technology departments and curriculum teams began a professional development series that really moved their teachers to proficiency with Google Classroom, Edgenuity, and other tools. Open house training sessions were held to train the parents/caregivers with emphasis at the elementary schools. Internet access for their 4200 students has been challenging:
 1. They have been loading/recording lessons on jump drives for students who still do not have access.
 2. Equipped vehicles with hotspots and boosted Wi-Fi capabilities within their buildings to allow for students' access from the parking lots.
 3. Partnered with Verizon and Appalachian Wireless to provide hotspots to student who do not have reliable internet (500 students in 310 households).

Whitley County virtual learning continues to evolve while always finding better and more efficient ways to do things!

- **(27:50) KY K-12 Digital Readiness:** https://applications.education.ky.gov/trs_reports/ - With the tremendous acceleration due to Covid-19, two data elements are now being tracked and updated monthly; they are Internet access beyond the school campus and the number of computers/devices that have come in. We will continue to track this on a monthly basis, but districts have made great strides. While we will never

be 100%, we are looking at these and other options. We are continuing to move forward with our efforts in conjunction with Kentucky Educational Television (KET) and the ATSC Signal.

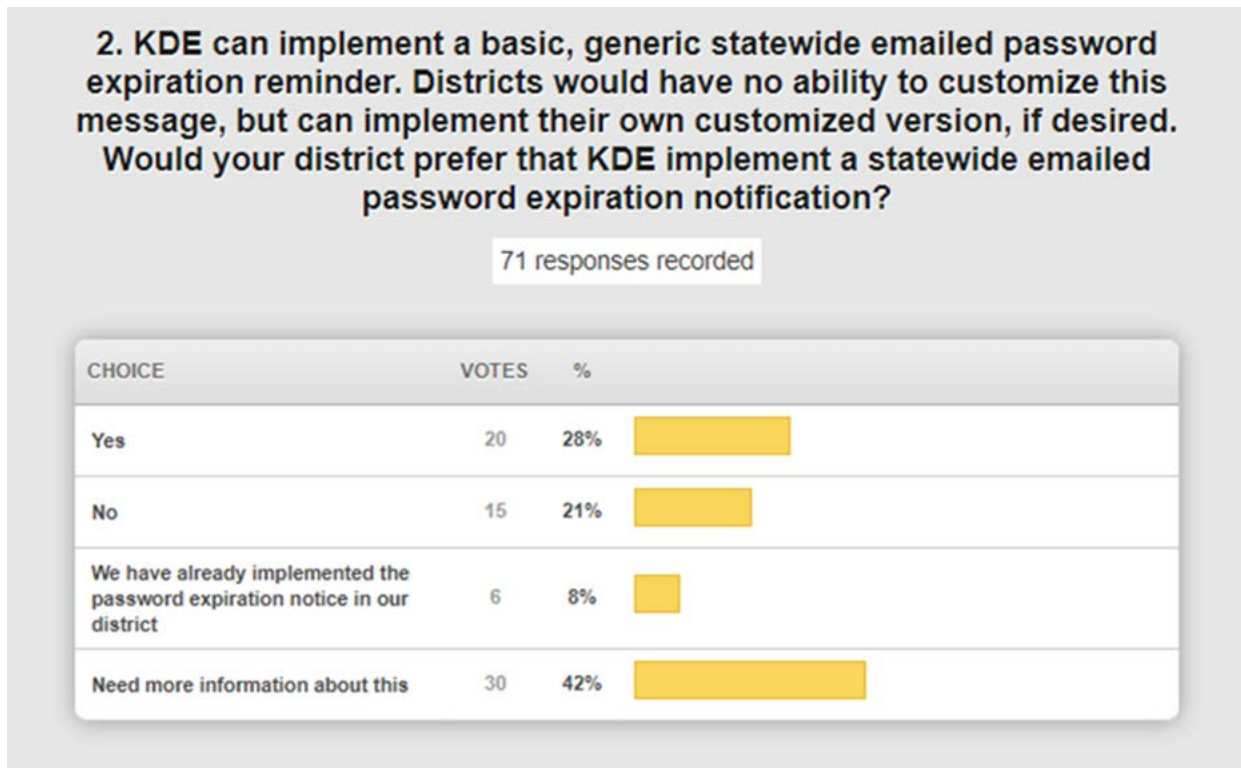


(35:11) Recent Words of Wisdom and Lessons Learned K-12 Cybersecurity from FBI, Federal Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), KY Homeland Security and KDE - We receive over four billion attempted cyber attacks in a normal school year, but during this time they are going full court press. There is a big target on KY K-12 and cyber criminals are taking advantage of this crisis.

Bob Hackworth appreciates all that everyone has done and the focus that has been put on cyber security. We were as prepared as anyone when the pandemic hit and we had to pivot quickly while continuing our cybersecurity initiatives. Much of what we had done wasn't because of a pandemic but the infrastructure/preparation was already in place. Bob discussed an advisory that was sent out by the Joint Cybersecurity Advisory. This advisory was coauthored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). The summary is as follows: *"The FBI, CISA, and MS-ISAC assess malicious cyber actors are targeting kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) educational institutions, leading to ransomware attacks, the theft of data, and the disruption of distance learning services. Cyber actors likely view schools as targets of opportunity, and these types of attacks are expected to continue through the 2020/2021 academic year. These issues will be particularly challenging for K-12 schools that face resource limitations; therefore, educational leadership, information technology personnel, and security personnel will need to balance this risk when determining their cybersecurity investments."* To read the full content of the advisory, please go to: https://us-cert.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/AA20-345A_Joint_Cybersecurity_Advisory_Distance_Learning_S508C.pdf.

This information helps us make the justification for additional monies and effort in the area of cybersecurity. They know who we are and how to attack us and we should be concerned and as prepared as possible by implementing ways to help our staff. Ransomware, malware, and DDoS attacks are the primary forms of cyberattacks with ransomware becoming the major form.

Phil described the steps that KDE has taken over this past summer--password upgrades, password reset notice, disk encryption for 100% of the windows environment, SafeLinks and Safe Attachments, and email banners. All of these were big security initiatives that we had planned, but we were able to escalate the implementation. The majority of these are not specific to a device or the location of the device—they are about protecting the user’s identity and revolving around the human aspect.



The emailed expired password notification can be “packaged up” for districts and we discussed how we can assist districts in doing this. Getting a timely reminder that your password is about to expire is key to a good user experience. For those who want more information, please reach out to Robert.hackworth@ky.gov. David encouraged CIOs to discuss needed security initiatives with their Superintendent and asked Bob to share out the current document. We will continue to work with you on how we can keep chipping away at this.

(57:44) Circling Back to 11 March 2020 - The KY K-12 CIO Summit was held during the KySTE conference on March 11, 2020 and even during the summit we were responding to pandemic related concerns and announcements. We will send out the Big Takeaways from the topics covered, but today we will just speak to it. The summit is listed as one of our top things we did well each year and we wanted to make sure we take the time to circle back to this and discuss the collective feedback.

- **Topic 1 – Interoperability** – DeDe Conner introduced this at the summit, but Chuck reviewed the table comments. Interoperability is HUGE. When you start to break all the table conversation down, there are 2 points of frustration. I have multiple accounts/passwords (and in multiple places) to remember and users don’t often get timely access due to the behind the scenes work processes. There have been some interoperability successes – Security Assertion Markup Language (SAML) and Campus Learning are examples along with Online Registration.
- **Topic 2 – Maximizing Our Investment** – This topic was introduced by David Couch and focused on maximizing our investment. Marty Park shared the takeaways from the review of the feedback. This topic springboarded what we were called to take on as the pandemic took hold. Usage, adoption, return on investment (ROI) and learning outcomes were all covered at the tables. The annual 360 feedback was recognized as a best practice and extremely valuable to them. On the other end of the pendulum, some districts feel they are in the wild wild west and working in a very reactive mode. The conversations around

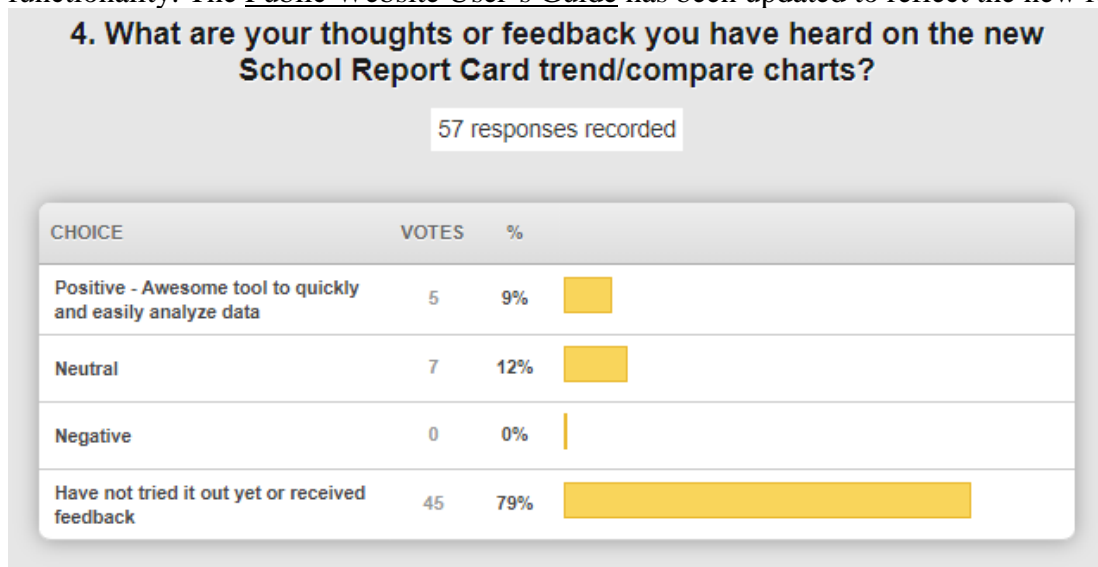
the people side of things and the Master Plan Areas of Emphasis were very interesting and we appreciated the thoughtful comments and suggested goals.

- **Topic 3 – To Print or Not to Print** – Marty believes that the use of paper keeps us from using strong edtech practices. Due to the effect of the pandemic, we anticipate a huge dip in the paper usage and costs on our next TAR reporting. Our big question is that when we return to the school environment, what will we do? How we use all the new learning strategies? This topic generated some emotion and some districts see printing costs going up; however, we see this due to more accurate reporting. When we see costs going down, we see this as a result of digital integration and tracking strategies. There is a direct correlation between spend on technology and spend on paper. District-wide comprehensive strategies were the biggest takeaway along with district-wide purchasing and contracting processes.
- **Topic 4 – How’s Your District’s Digital Health?** – We were really focused on the school campus up to the time of the pandemic and Jody Rose introduced this topic for us. Phil Coleman and Bob Hackworth reviewed the table feedback and it’s important to remember this was ALL pre-Covid. The digital footprint of a school district is the largest and most comprehensive network in the county. It is difficult to recruit and retain the needed staffing for these sophisticated networks that include many and varied technologies. Wi-Fi was listed as one of the most difficult components to manage. It was suggested that our contracts have more network management options to help them maintain the health of the district digital health. We may never overcome the “sticky note” mentality, but some of our more recent password policies/security measures may assist with this. Security health checks are also stepping forward in importance.

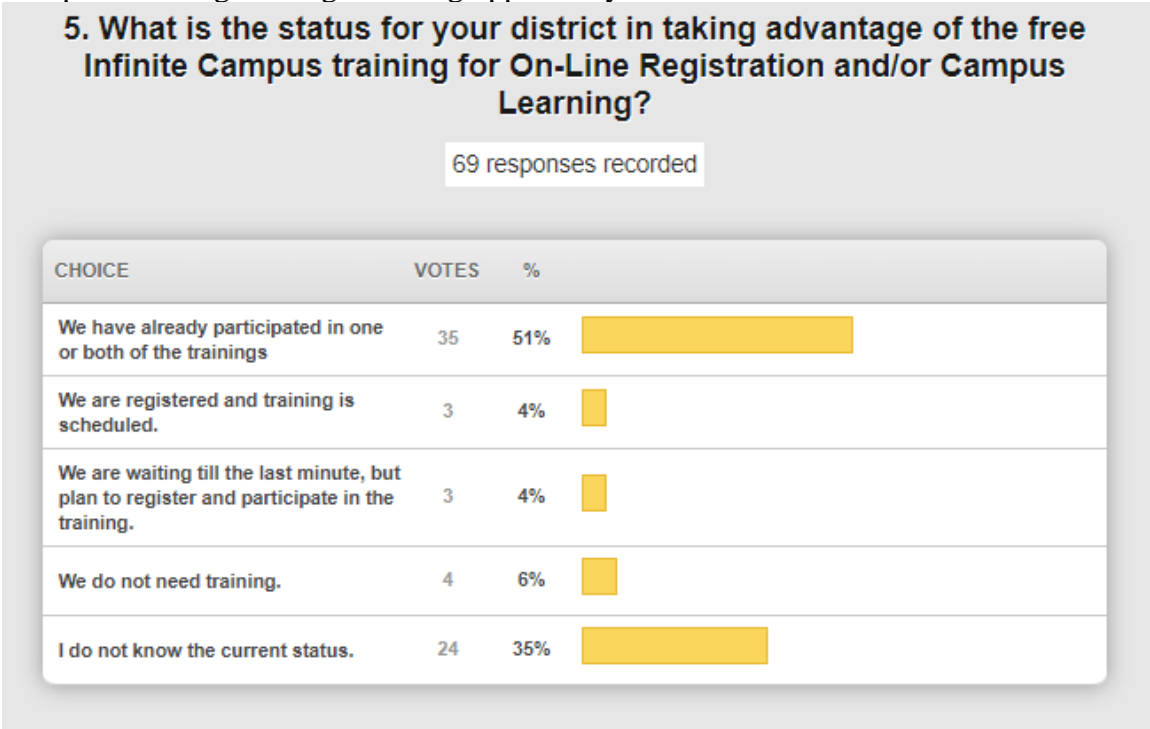
Bob discussed the whole Internet of things (Iot) devices and there is a document discussing how to manage these devices in our network environment. Regarding security healthchecks, we do have a few vendors on contract that perform security assessments. We encourage you to consider having one of these performed; however, they are not free. One surprising takeaway was that our districts would like to see more guidance from KDE as well as more “thou shalt”. We do try not to request too many “thou shalt” because our districts are each unique and their needs vary. What you will probably see moving forward is more recommendations while we discuss any possible “thou shalt” processes and implementations.

(1:30:11) Infinite Campus and KY School Report Card Update -

- School Report Card now includes new trend and compare charts in select areas. See the [BrightBytes eData Page Comparisons](#), [Student Group Multi Select and Trend Chart video](#) for an overview of this new functionality. The [Public Website User’s Guide](#) has been updated to reflect the new features.



- BrightBytes is leading user experience testing and providing feedback opportunities for input. There is still time to submit names to participate ([KDE Data Services](#) or [BrightBytes](#)). There's also a [feedback link](#) in the footer at the bottom of the SRC webpage.
- 2020-2021 – Financial Transparency (2019-20) and (2020-2021) planning has started. This is running a little behind this year, so it may be the May timeframe rather than the April timeframe before you begin hearing a lot about this.
- All districts have the Kentucky Academic Standards available in Infinite Campus for Reading & Writing, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health Education, Physical Education, Visual & Performing Arts, Computer Science and Career Studies & Financial Literacy.
- For details on the following training opportunities, go to the [KSIS Training webpage](#).
 - Dec. 14 – KDE is offering training to local Foster Care liaison to stress requirements of HB312 including demonstration on how to run the Student Records Transfer in Infinite Campus and overview of the new Student Records Transfer report that will help districts monitor their processes and ensure requirements are met.
 - Districts must register by Dec. 18 to be eligible for the free Infinite Campus On-Line Registration and Campus Learning training. Training opportunity has been extended into 2021.

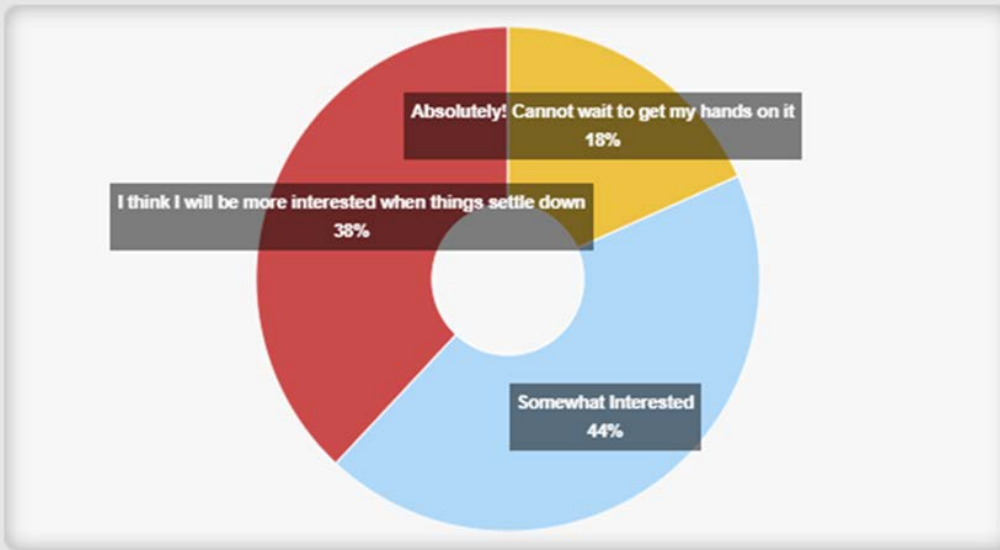


- Jan. 8 – 2020-2021 KSIS Infinite Campus mid-year training.
- Infinite Campus National Training Week sessions were recorded and will be posted back to the [National Training Week site](#) by Dec. 11.

Remaining GoSoapBox Questions Posed Today:

1. How interested are you in reviewing the new annual Computer Science (CS) Report?

71 responses recorded







3. Of those districts participating in the LMI funding program please indicate the approximate % of your approved budget expected to be spent by the December 30th deadline?

41 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
95-100%	19	46%	<div style="width: 46%;"></div>
75-94%	4	10%	<div style="width: 10%;"></div>
50-74%	9	22%	<div style="width: 22%;"></div>
Less than 50%	9	22%	<div style="width: 22%;"></div>

6. Which of the following best represents your plans to continue services implemented with LMI funding after December 30, 2020?

48 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Between 75-100% of services implemented will continue after December 30th	37	77%	
Between 50-74% of services implemented will continue after December 30th	8	17%	
Between 25-49% of services implemented will continue after December 30th	2	4%	
Less than 25% of services implemented will continue after December 30th	1	2%	

It has been a tremendous year in every kind of way! David took a moment to thank everyone for all the behind the scenes work--OET staff, district staff and vendor partners. We have so much to be proud of and wish you all a wonderful holiday break.