

Summary of the March 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 March 16, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2021/03/edtech-webcast-march-2021/>.

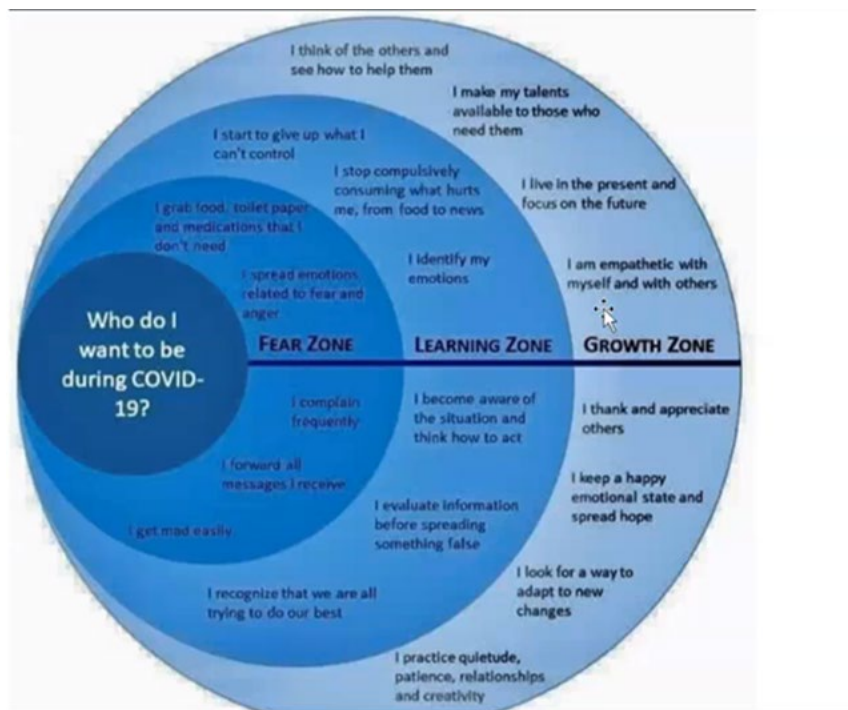
Public viewing of the archived webcasts and written summaries are also available on the KDE Media Portal at: <http://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/>. Numbers in **RED** indicate the timestamp for that portion of the discussion so it can be easily located on the full digital recording.

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 opened today with a look back at the last year. It has been 12 months since we were at the 2020 KySTE CIO Summit on March 11th and decisions to cancel events, athletic tournaments and school closing discussions began. This past year has been extremely busy but also a time that we are most proud of in our KETS history. We had several firsts as an organization and many of those were "firsts" at a national level as well because we were so prepared to take that leap to virtual meetings, remote learning, and remote work. A true cause for celebration.

The March 2020 KySTE event was also the last time that many of us have seen each other in person. March 17th of last year was the first time we conducted our webcast via Microsoft Teams. During that webcast we talked about this being a marathon and a time to accelerate some of our work and we have done just that. Kentucky was the best-positioned state as we went into the pandemic. While we weren't planning for a pandemic, we had all the tools and systems put in place with the biggest concern being capacity. During this time, we continued with all of our planned projects and upgrades apart from the password policy implementation. We began testing the capacities of our online tools and demonstrating/maximizing the use of the technology tools. We began sharing guidelines and digital meeting basics and education technology considerations became a part of almost every discussion. One of the proudest things we accomplished was moving forward and having a virtual STLP State Championship!

From a mental health perspective, we spent some time throughout these months discussing how to stay healthy and maneuver our way through the pandemic while working remotely and taking care of ourselves. David shared the following chart depicting the differing phases/zones that most of us have experienced. The growth zone was where we all endeavored to be as we navigated all the change.



In August 2020, KY K-12 was described as “exceptional” in a national publication regarding our digital/instructional resources being available to our students and teachers in their classrooms and homes during this pandemic. Throughout this time cybercriminals did not stop; they actually stepped up their game and become even more sophisticated in their attacks and increased cyber-criminal activity. In September 2020, we were recognized as a national leader in *Government Technology* in relation to what we have put in place in K-12 EdTech over the past 25 years. As Thanksgiving came around, we were so appreciative of the simple things in life. This pandemic has affected us all both professionally and personally and we are so proud of how our education technology staff/tools have navigated this pandemic. It was a very tough year, but we have much to celebrate.

(24:33) Kentucky Society for Technology in Education (KySTE) Announcements - Greta Casto joined us this morning from KySTE to announce the winners of the annual Impact Awards:

- Impact Leader of the Year – Robby Forsythe, Warren County Schools
- Impact Teacher of the Year – Craig Dunlap, Boone County Schools
- Impact Technical Support Staff of the Year – Stephen Johnson, Henderson County Schools

Greta thanked KDE for our partnership and this year has been amazing! There are additional KySTE webinars and other events coming up. Our next KySTE Conference is set for March 9 – 11, 2022! This relationship between KDE/OET and KySTE has played a large part in our past, current and future successes.

(35:35) Heartbeat from the Field –As we have done previously, a few districts joined us virtually to share their experiences with technology and connectivity while navigating the challenges with Covid-19 and the virtual learning experience.

(35:40) Johnson County Schools (with Supt. Thom Cochran, CIO/DLC Lisa Salyer & DTC Mike Whitaker): Supt. Thom Cochran joined us today and began by showing his appreciation for all those who have worked to removed barriers for kids. Johnson County Schools serve 3300 students with 70% of students currently attending in-person 4 days a week and the remaining 30% are in a hybrid remote learning model. They have four staff in their EdTech team and they do amazing things with such a small education technology staff. Mike Whitaker and Lisa Salyer joined us today.

- Learning Without Boundaries – Mike took this on as his mission over the last school year. All schools had to take on a lot of software, but they always ask first if a piece of software interacts with Clever’s digital learning platform. They gained outdoor campus classrooms for increased Wi-Fi access and allowed 24/7 access with Google Classroom to remove barriers to learning.
- Digital Learning Framework - Supt. Cochran shared that they have one full-time digital learning coach (DLC) in Lisa Salyer, but they have decided to ask the board to create 7 new DLC positions – one for each of their schools. They are developing a two-year, rigorous framework to use the coaching modules and develop the DLC program. They will attend regional and state meetings and working to become Google certified coaches. They rely heavily on the Google platform, but they will use and incorporate other instructional strategies. It will be another level of support for the teachers and the classrooms.
- Communication Initiative – This is Supt. Cochran’s fourth year and when he came in there were limitations and voids in the communication model. They partnered with Apptegy’s Thrillshare and developed a new web page and aligned it with their communication needs. They prepare daily communications and share it out through a variety of methods. They also started a YouTube channel and found that more people watch the videos more than they read his communications. They still use radio and newspaper as well as the local TV station. During the pandemic they wanted to be transparent about COVID and they developed a dashboard for decision-making purposes and to keep the public informed,

(51:04) Pike County Schools (with Supt. Reed Adkins, and CIO Clayton Potter): Supt. Adkins began by mentioning that Pike County schools is in a telehealth partnership with Pikeville Medical Center. Pike County Schools has 7650 students and that has reduced dramatically in the last 5 years primarily due to the reduction in coal industry in the surrounding area. He covered the district demographics and how spread out Pike County is geographically and how difficult consolidation would be because of the geographic factors. They have student technology leadership program (STLP) in every school. Pike County is implementing the last mile Internet access program and using proxy services. They use Canvas as their learning management system (LMS) and will be developing/implementing a virtual academy next school year. All teachers will be receiving a new workstation using Title IV funds, and their existing workstations will be used in labs and as loaners; the district also voted to move to a 1:1 implementation for the district using CARES funding.

Clayton Potter, CIO for the district, expanded on a few of the Pike County initiatives:

- One of the initial things they did was to try to bring in the remote learning atmosphere and improve the communication part of it by training anyone who wanted it in the district. It included teachers and staff and he commended the administration on moving forward with Canvas.
- They were an NTI district before the pandemic and were used to that, but they moved toward a paperless format for registration--they bought in BIG to that. They are setting up kiosks for parents and guardians. They plan on continuing using the on-line registration approach going forward and beyond the pandemic.
- They are participating in the Last Mile Internet (LMI) for students and they have served 140 students (approximately 100 households) so far. They only have 10 students remaining from their 7650 students that they are not able to provide last mile Internet beyond the school campus in any capacity due to geography.
- The password policy upgrade is fully implemented and it went pretty smoothly. They took it on and rolled it out as a security project that included SSPR and MFA. It was voluntary at first and they provided options on the password length.

(1:04:56) KY K-12 2021 EdTech Infographic: [2021JanuaryInfographic.pdf \(ky.gov\)](#) - We discussed this in a previous virtual webcast, but wanted to highlight a few more pieces of data in our most current version of the KETS Infographic. If you haven’t checked it out as part of our KETS Master Plan (Appendix B), please do that.

- Full Time enrolled online/virtual schools is now collected.
- We now have 135 or 78% of our school districts who have a strategic 1:1 implementation.
- Our students’ skills continue to develop and improve.
- 82% of teachers have access to a DLC and we know that that % is now even higher.

- From a professional development standpoint, we'll need to know what our teachers continue to need help with.
- Online & Virtual Learning will continue to increase; 94% of districts report students taking online or virtual courses (this could be part-time or full-time virtual).
- Learning Management Systems - 95% of districts sponsor a learning management system
- We know that we have more mobile devices in KY K-12 than we have students.

(1:15:41) EdTech Funding Update - Please refer to the more detailed summary we provided last month for more detail, but below are the changes since that last in-depth funding discussion:

- CARES 3.0 (ARP ESSER) funding will bring over \$2B to KY K-12 education and we now have three separate funding packages to go toward education spending needs. We are all working to put together plans for these funds and going through the decision making process while reviewing the spending restrictions with each funding source. A few things we know:
 - We are still lacking in the level of technical staff and will need to address this in our spending plans.
 - There is 10% of that \$2B that KDE the agency can use for statewide services for districts.
 - KDE will be circling back to the list of statewide services priorities with the remaining 10% of CARES 2.0 funds.
- \$3.2 B federal funds for the broadband expansion project and Kentucky's portion is approximately \$64M; during the pandemic our districts went child by child to get more accurate reporting on students who did not have access to the Internet away from the school campus. This program will offer up to a \$50/month discount for Internet connectivity and up to a \$100 discount for a device to use at the home and the program will apply to eligible freed and reduced lunch households.
- 2nd offer of \$7/ADA are in process and we will be trueing up to the \$21/ADA for the year with our 3rd and final Offer of Assistance.
- E-rate Update – The current E-rate filing window closes on March 25th

(1:20:35) 2021 Legislative Session Update - As we discussed previously, this is not normally a budget year, but due to the pandemic the legislature only approved a one-year spending plan during last year's session not knowing what might happen and how it could affect Kentucky's economy. Most of the education-related legislation has either already been signed by the Governor or is currently going through the final steps in the House. We are on the 28th day of the 30-day session and the legislature will enter the veto recess until they come back for 2 additional days to take action on last items and override vetoes. We did have a few EdTech-related bills that we were watching, but they did not come to a vote.

(1:23:02) KY K-12 Data Systems Update –

- Training Update: For details on the following training opportunities, go to the [KSIS Training webpage](#).
 - Kentucky user group sessions to be conducted virtually:
 - March 23 – eastern Kentucky 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. ET
 - March 24 – central Kentucky 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. ET
 - March 25 – western Kentucky 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. CT
 - National user group sessions to be conducted virtually, 12-3 p.m. each day:
 - April 20 – What's new in Infinite Campus
 - April 22 – What's Next
 - April 14 – KSIS Infinite Campus end-of-year training

1. Do staff members in your district plan to participate in KY User Group and/or National Infinite Campus User Group sessions?

53 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	30	57%	<div></div>
No	4	8%	<div></div>
I do not know but will help promote participation	19	36%	<div></div>

2. Do staff members in your district plan to participate in the KSIS Infinite Campus end-of-year training?

53 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	38	72%	<div></div>
No	1	2%	<div></div>
I do not know but will help promote participation	14	26%	<div></div>

- It is not too late to sign up if your district would still like to take advantage of the opportunities with Campus Learning and On-Line Registration.

3. Has your district made a decision to continue Campus Learning (CL) with local funding (beyond 2022)?

53 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Our district decided not to use CL	14	26%	<div></div>
Our district previously used CL and will continue after 2022 with local money (do not currently know source)	8	15%	<div></div>
Our district will take advantage of ESSER funding to continue to offer CL	2	4%	<div></div>
No decision yet; still being discussed	29	55%	<div></div>

4. Has your district made a decision to continue On-Line Registration (OLR) with local funding (beyond 2022)?

50 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Our district decided not to use OLR	6	12%	<div></div>
Our district previously used OLR and will continue after 2022 with local money (do not currently know source)	17	34%	<div></div>
Our district will take advantage of ESSER funding to continue to offer OLR	8	16%	<div></div>
No decision yet; still being discussed	19	38%	<div></div>

- New P-EBT benefits were approved for Oct. 2020-May 2021; benefits will start going out to families the weekend of March 13-14. Keep in mind that questions may be coming and they are best directed to CHFS.
- School Report Card
 - 2020-2021 (Year 4) scope being finalized this month with the exception of assessment and accountability
 - 2019-2020 – Year 3 Financial Transparency (Spring) please ensure financial officers have been set up in People Role Manager to have access to SRC. It will open in late April to early May.

(1:27:44) Status of KY K-12 Network Components RFP and Teacher Certification System (RFP) –

- **Network Components Contract** – Those awarded contracts are Cisco, Dell, HP, Extreme, Aruba and Juniper. This remains an open procurement and there could be additional awards made. Each contract holder may name up to five reseller agents so there are a lot of options for districts. If you have questions, you may direct those to your KETS Engineer or the E-rate team. As of this morning, these contracts are in the EPIC online system and they are ready! We will also share out a contract matrix through the field staff. Contract holders are responsible to manage any identified reseller agents and that includes pricing.
- **Teacher Certification System and POS System** - These are both still open RFPs and we hope to share news soon!

(1:34:24) Major KY K-12 Technology-Enabled Projects Update - We have some major technology-enabled initiatives/upgrades coming up. We are beginning week 53, we all are experiencing Covid fatigue. We want to do our best to minimize the disruption and project-related fatigue as we work on these upcoming projects and initiatives that will require district-level cooperation and participation:

- Bandwidth upgrades begin in July and we'll be completing 10 to 12 per month; it will go to the end of the school year and/or maybe the fiscal year.
- Relay Phase II – This will move your relay device from inline state to out of line state. We will have completed 6 proof of concept moves, we'll be doing 10 pilots in April and starting full implementation in May. This requires working with Lightspeed and district staff.
- Hardware Router Replacement – Affects 104 districts and AT&T will be leading this effort.
- Active Directory Refresh – This is a big deal and it requires a few small projects of its own. We will work closely with district staff to stitch these together and minimize disruption and down time.

There are operational responsibilities to keep things up and running, there are programmatic considerations (deadlines, reporting, etc.) and there is project work. We eventually reach a point where hardware and software

require a change or upgrade and we have reached that point with all the projects above. Project work is a resource strain and we'll be working closely through our field staff and our project staff to ensure we work as effectively as possible and communicate effectively. Please keep working with your KE to know what's coming. It's going to be a busy summer!

Kentucky Educational Television (KET) Datacasting Project Update - Fulton County school are helping to test/pilot the KET datacasting option.

As we close today, another word of thanks for all that you have done over the last year. There is cause for celebration even as we continue to finish out the school year. Thanks for joining us today.

The following are the results from our remaining GoSoapBox poll questions posed during our virtual Microsoft TEAMS meeting with all districts and OET staff.

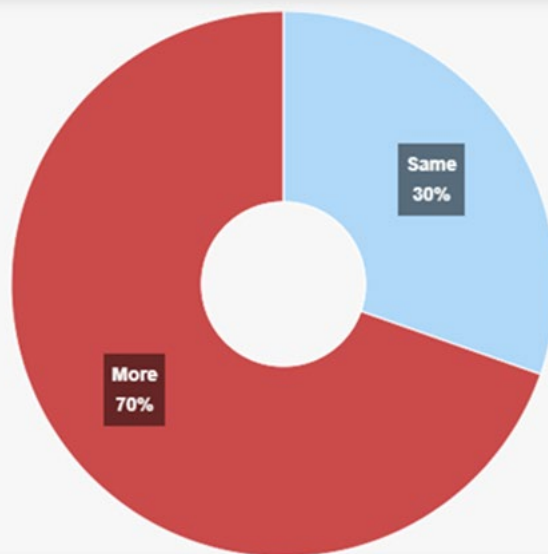
5. Have you already had discussions concerning the education technology aspects of this year's Spring statewide testing window?

53 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	47	89%	<div></div>
Not Yet	6	11%	<div></div>

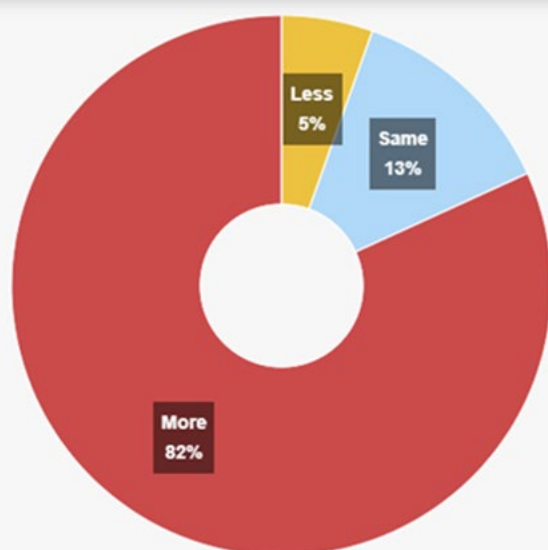
6. Will Learning Management Systems be used more or less than before the pandemic in your district?

56 responses recorded



7. Will Videoconferencing (live, synchronous learning events or meetings) be used more or less than before the pandemic in your district?

55 responses recorded



8. Will Web-based or digital instructional resources be used more or less than before the pandemic in your district?

55 responses recorded

