

Summary of the May 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 May 18, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/featured/2021/05/edtech-webcast-may-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.

(2:04) Reflection and Celebration Items:

- Congratulations to all of us for successfully navigating a truly one-of-a-kind school year. For many, it actually began around this time rather than the August timeframe. We were just finishing up a very unusual school year while also continuing the monumental planning and work over the summer to prepare for this current school year that is now coming to a close. Overall, it was an incredible year and all involved get an "A". We weren't 100% perfect, but this experience and the intense and extraordinary work efforts that transpired over the past year are pretty amazing.
- Testing Tents – Since early last fall, the Sower parking lot has been a Covid-19 testing location for state employees and the front parking lot has been roped off for the testing tents. Last week was the last testing window and the tents have now all been removed. This is a cause for celebration! We are still working through and reviewing the CDC's updated guidance along with the Governor's restrictions, but it is looking like things are moving back to normalcy in the July/August timeframe.
- 2021 STLP Regionals and State Championship - Jeff reported from the Sower building and thanked everyone who played a part in making the regionals and the championship happen! We were so happy to still find a way to make STLP "pandemic-proof" and move forward with these events in a virtual format. On the last day of April, we culminated our STLP Week (April 26-29) with our STLP State Championship. We also had 1,000's of entries for the other competition categories. We found new and innovative ways to collaborate and share and navigate Covid-19. Please share and spend some time viewing the STLP site at [STLP – Design. Make. Connect. LEARN! \(ky.gov\)](#) - This link has (1) a short video of each of our four 2021 KY K-12 state champs and their awesome projects, (2) the award show, and (3) all our other student state champs in the other STLP competition categories. We are looking forward to STLP continuing to grow and flourish; planning is already underway for the regionals and the 2022 STLP State Championship being back at Rupp Arena. Moving forward we will need to continue to offer a digital component and we have also aligned our resources with the Kentucky academic technology standards.
- Largest completion of online summative testing in KY's history – Kentucky has just completed the largest online summative testing in Kentucky history! One of the major pluses of online testing is that the results come back so much faster. Testing is continuing but the majority of tests have been administered; over 1 million tests have been successfully completed. We will share out the final numbers and ask that districts review their district specific numbers to review and share feedback with your district staff and field staff. It is also a very good speaking point as we speak to our legislature and request additional funds to continue to support our KETS infrastructure needs. No other states that border Kentucky have had near the level of success with online testing as we've experienced here in Kentucky.

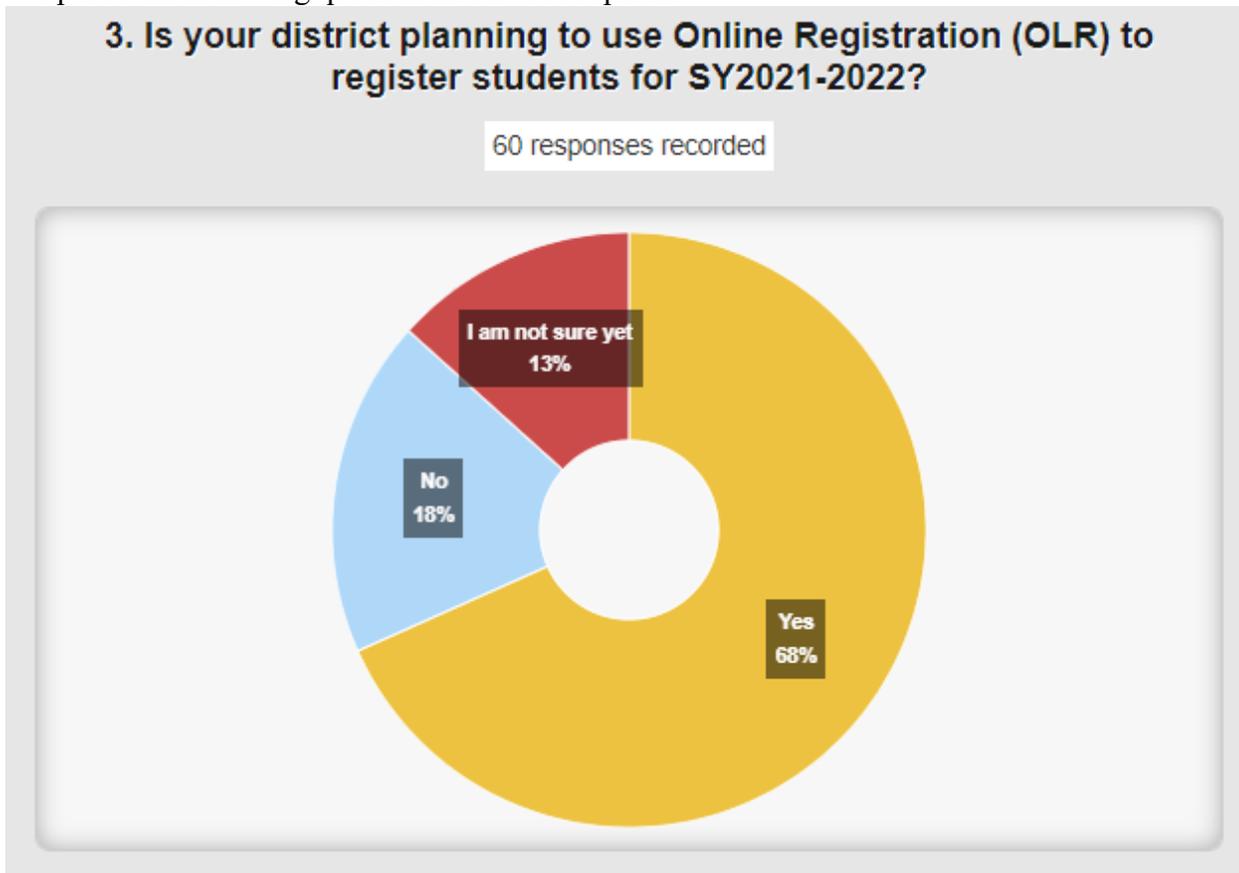
- KySTE’s 2021 “Making IT Happen” award – It’s always exciting when we take a moment to recognize and celebrate people who make extraordinary contributions. About a month ago, David and Marty along with some KySTE leadership joined in a staff meeting to surprise Amy Johns with the award. We are very excited to share this and recognize Amy for her many years of contribution—Congratulations! We also greatly appreciate the work of and our partnership with KySTE and thank you for all that you do.

(23:37) EdTech Funding Update: We are receiving a large influx of federal funds and this is really a good problem to have. We are working to put together thoughtful and effective plans for the use of these funding sources at the KDE level and districts are performing this same exercise at the school and district levels. We do need to keep in mind throughout the planning process that these funds are one-time allocations and the funding being provided does expire. Here are some details regarding certain funding sources and comments around the area of edtech funding:

- **\$3.2B Last Mile Internet (LMI) beyond the school campus 2.0** – There have been some recent announcements regarding this federal program which focuses on low-income families and it looks like all the providers in Kentucky are included. It provides low income families \$50 per month for Internet service plus the cost, up to \$100, for a hotspot type of device if needed. Given that Kentucky has a very high percentage of families that qualify for free-reduced lunch services, we are in a situation where we can take advantage of this \$3.2B program. Please continue to stay up-to-date and promote this program to your schools and parents as an option to provide Internet access beyond the school campus.
- **\$7.1B Last Mile Internet (LMI) beyond the school campus 3.0** – This is part of the ARP funds and it is particularly targeted to Internet access for K-12 students beyond the school campus. The guidelines for this federal program are still under development.
- **Broadband Deployment Fund** – During the 2021 session, the legislature appropriated \$300M from their CARES funding to go toward the last mile to the home within Kentucky. This is a grant matching program under the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) and we don’t know exactly when/how that will be utilized just yet, but this is another source of funding going toward Internet access beyond the school campus.
- **KETS Offer of Assistance** – The 3rd KETS offer is \$6.50/ADA and this brings the annual KETS offer up to the projected \$21/ADA. We do not have a projected offer for next school year at this time.
- **E-rate Update** – Be looking for and responsive to the PIA reviews that occur as E-rate applications are being reviewed and approved. Once your application is approved, the 486’s will need to be completed.
- **Summer Months** – June and July, in a typical year, are not as busy and participation in our webcasts is normally down. With all the different funding sources and associated planning and implementation for these CARES funds that have a shot clock on them, we are going to be extremely busy.
- **ARP ESSER (CARES 3.0)** – On May 25th proposals are due by each KDE office for the state shared services and 10% portion of these funds. This is close to \$200M and our office has submitted and prioritized our requests. We detailed these items and how we hope to assist districts in purchasing and/or or implementing these items on behalf of all school districts; however, we do have to keep in mind that these funds do expire and be very strategic and thoughtful regarding our ability to expend funds and sustain what is put in place.
- **KBE Priorities** –
 - Even though we’ve had a major influx of funds, we are also continuing to advocate for the increase to our baseline funding through an additional budget request (ABR). The board is reviewing and will agree upon the department funding priorities that will go to the legislature in the October timeframe.
 - There is a special board meeting to review and approve the virtual learning waiver and we fully expect the virtual learning option to be present as we move past the pandemic. We received 109 waiver requests from our 171 school districts.
 - In August we will be making our annual presentation to the KBE on our KETS funding and we do include all funding sources available in our KETS Expenditure Plan.

(39:01) KY K-12 Data Systems Update –

- School Report Card
 - 2019-2020 – Year 3 Financial Transparency closed May 14 and will open to the public in May 24.
 - Kentucky Equity Data Collection Survey – See the Commissioner’s Monday (May 17) message for details about a streamlined and timelier process.
- New state ad-hoc filter is available – Health Chronic Health Conditions and COVID-19 Vaccines (data collection is optional).
- Refer to the [Kentucky End-of-Year checklist](#) and [State Reporting Deadlines, Submission Processes and Contacts](#) for help with end of year activities. Keep an eye on the newsletter for more details and resources.
- For details on the following training opportunities as well as recordings and resources from prior training events, go to the [KSIS Training webpage](#).
 - July 21 – KDE KSIS Infinite Campus beginning-of-year training, free online event
 - Nov. 4-5 – Ky. Infinite Campus Interchange, Omni Louisville Hotel
 - Nov. 15-19 – Infinite Campus Virtual National Training Week, \$499 per district
- We posed the following question in our GoSoapBox:



It is still possible to get in on this if the district is interested!

(42:40) Digital Teaching and Learning Update –

- **Special KBE Meeting** - There is a special called board meeting today that is all about virtual and online learning schools. This is an urgent piece of work and revolves around daily attendance. There are attendance and funding considerations for students who go into the school building and also for performance-based attendance opportunities. The performance-based structure does not allow for attendance below 5th grade and this is the basis for the waiver request. This waiver would allow for attendance for that population and 64% of our school districts submitted requests. Prior to the pandemic, we knew that 84% of our districts offered some flavor of online and virtual school options. The big piece as we move forward is that you involve yourself in these conversations! The waivers are continuing to come in and one of the “asks” during

the meeting today will be to grant our commissioner the ability to approve any additional requests as they are submitted.

- **Digital Learning Coach Summit** – We are all seeing the value of the digital learning coach and pushed hard for this in our people side of education technology discussions. If you have not taken advantage of the DLC stipend program, we encourage you to look into that and take advantage of that opportunity. We now have over 500 established and recognized digital learning coaches in our schools and districts! June 15th we are having the statewide Digital Learning Coach Summit and we have over 270 registrants. We have a full agenda so mark your calendars!

(52:41) KY K-12 KETS EdTech Product Standards Discussion – There has been a lot of contract activity over the past year and this always prompts review and discussion of our KETS product standards. The primary reasons for our KETS product standards are to provide equitable access and drive down the costs for all school districts, the support and reliability, the interoperability and the security advantages. There are statutes and regulations that require us to administer these product standards regardless of the funding source.

We plan to use a variety of methods to refresh and educate/re-educate our education technology staff and vendor community on our KETS product standards. Your field staff will be having these discussions with you as well. Every district agrees to these product standards through the Superintendent assurances and acknowledgements for the KETS offers of assistance. Because we have these product standards in place and are the national leaders in cloud-based, it made us very efficient and prepared to deal with the pandemic; this is very different from other states and other state agencies with the commonwealth.

These product standards are not optional and they are a core part of the KETS program. If we do have non-KETS standard components purchased, we will have to deal with that situation and work to remove these non-KETS standard devices. We have recently rebid and awarded our network services contracts and it does allow for multiple resellers. These recent awards are also another reason why this is the time to go back and revisit the product standards discussion.

One of the areas that we need to spend some time on is the trade-in and gifting component to ensure that we meet the criteria and guidelines as set forth in the federal E-rate program. Please be thoughtful when working in this arena because we do not want to put our districts or our vendor partners at risk in relation to our ability to maximize the E-rate program. One consideration is that under the E-rate umbrella, a piece of equipment must be maintained for 5 years before it can be considered for trade-in. Another layer of that is what our contracts do/do not allow at the state level. Our contracts at the state level do NOT have trade-in allowances or provisions.

The other area we need to look into is the installation component of our networking contracts. It was very intentional that we awarded several vendors and allowed for multiple resellers in our recent awards; installation is included as an option (it is not required to be purchased) when making a purchase. If a district chooses to make a purchase of installation, it should come from the seller if the district is not performing these installation services.

(1:13:00) EdTech Services and Initiatives Update –

- **Relay Phase II** – We have completed the proof of concepts and the pilots for the relay deployment and we want to thank all the early adopters who worked with us as we developed the documentation and completed all this work. Scheduling all the remaining sites is now happening and the field staff will be working with you on this.
- **Web Applications** – We are working to move all our KDE web applications to a single sign-on beginning on June 25th; this will affect several of our applications. Those applications should have a banner on their current sign-in screens, but a detailed message will be sent out soon from Phil Coleman with a complete list of applications being affected; please be sure to share this information to your staff.

(1:16:04) KY K-12 Internet Services During Basic & Extended School Hours – The main focus of our KY K-12 Internet service has always been instructional even though the network is also used for administrative needs. Our focus this summer and going forward is to make sure that our instructional network is used primarily for day-to-day instruction during core instructional hours. Sports and gaming activities should be done after these core instructional hours and this needs to be an item that is regularly discussed. Anything that is not day-to-day, instructionally related should be done after the core instructional hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. This includes, but is not limited to, things such as:

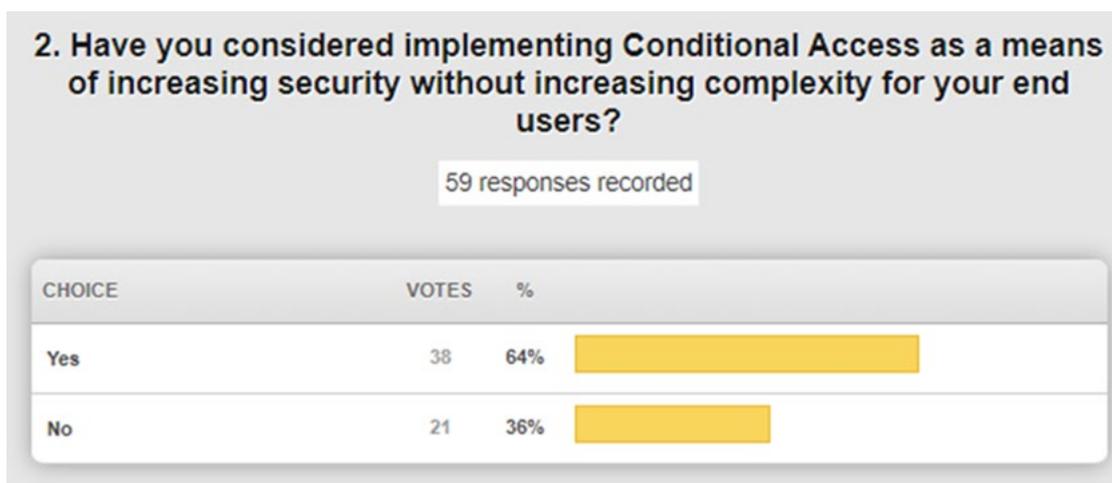
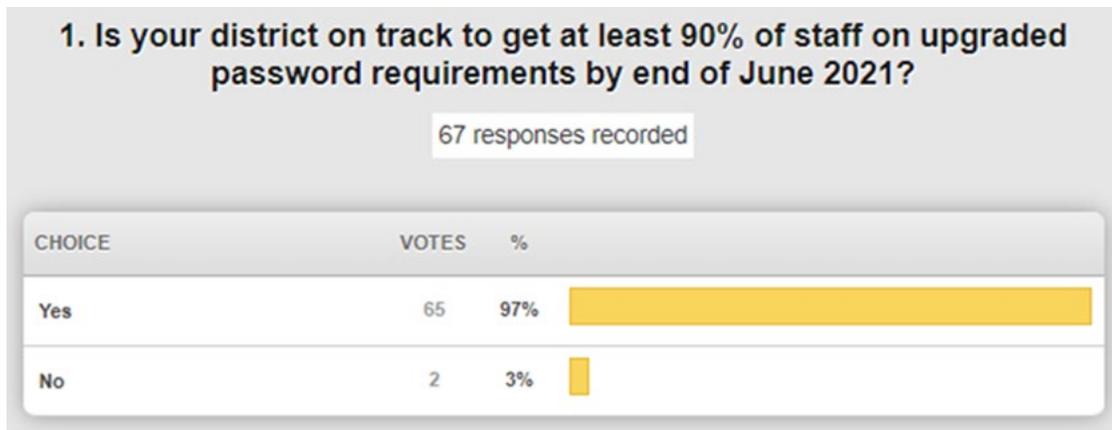
- Sporting events/broadcasts
- Sports game film posting of players and traditional post-game film exchange between team coaches in digital form (e.g., Hudl, Dragonfly, etc.)
- Sanctioned/non-sanctioned esports gaming
- Grid computing

There will be increased emphasis on extended school day services as many of our educational services are now reaching beyond the traditional school day.

(1:21:20) Area Technology Centers (ATC) EdTech Inventories – It is our intention to pick up the pace and complete edtech inventories of the area technology centers. You may have already captured this inventory, but some that serve more than one school district may have not been fully captured.

(1:22:39) Other Items:

- The Office of Education Accountability will be completing a study on behalf of the legislature regarding Non-Traditional Instruction (NTI). We will be providing the data we have for our digital readiness and updates we received on computers and Internet access beyond the school campus that we updated monthly through March.



Thanks again for joining us today.