

Summary of the June 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 June 15, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2021/06/edtech-june-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.

Before we began the official agenda items, David shared two good news items:

1. Today is Jeff Sebulsky's birthday and he was recognized with a rousing rendition of the birthday song.
2. During the June KBE meeting, the first Teresa Perry Compassion Award was presented to OET's very own Janice Harris; she is the office manager for the Office of Education Technology and very deserving as the first recipient of this award that will be given each June in memory of Teresa Perry, a beloved member of the KDE family who passed away in 2020. David shared some of the pictures from the special recognition. Congratulations Janice!

(6:51) EdTech Funding Update:

- **\$3.2B Last Mile Internet (LMI) Beyond the School Campus**– This is also called the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) Program and is applied for directly by the parent or guardian. EBB Connectivity Fund supports participating providers' provision of certain broadband services and connected devices to qualifying households with the temporary EBB Program launching on May 12, 2021. Participating providers will offer a discount of up to \$50/month to eligible households. The EBB also provides limited funding for acquiring devices needed to use the internet. Eligible households can receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. Other information and linked resources are below:
 - Funds do not flow through or to schools, but schools and KDE can play a role in supporting the program by sharing information with qualified families.
 - Families must demonstrate that at least one member of the household received benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program (USDA CEP), or that they did so in the 2019-2020 school year and can contact their local telecommunications providers to receive subsidized connections services and devices for learning.
 - Funds expire when funds are exhausted or six months after the Department of Health and Human Services declares the end of the COVID-19 health emergency.
 - More information about the program and the sign-up are located at <https://getemergencybroadband.org/>
- **\$7.1B Last Mile Internet (LMI) Beyond the School Campus**– This is part of the ARP ESSER funds and it is particularly targeted to Internet access for K-12 students beyond the school campus; it is more school focused and it is similar to the \$8M LMI project. This one, however, can also purchase computers. We had been waiting for guidance and a report came out from USAC to announce training that begins on June 15th for how this fund will work under the E-rate umbrella; however, it is separate and is not part of the E-rate

program. If you take the total funding, it averages \$142M for each state. The FCC order is lengthy, but we shared a few comments/observations:

- Link to the FCC Order: <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-58A1.pdf>
- Broadband and Internet are not synonymous terms
- In Kentucky, our true unmet need was approximately 13,000 students that didn't have access so they may have significantly overestimated the unmet need and used some "frozen in time" data that isn't current. While well intended, it may be tremendously over funded.
- There are two waves of applications/funding and the unmet need portion is similar to our KETS unmet need. The first wave is for those students who need last mile connectivity and do not currently have the capacity to have/acquire it. The second wave is for past costs to be reimbursed using funds remaining from the initial wave of applications. There is language stating that you cannot seek reimbursement from pandemic-targeted relief funds if used to make the original purchase.
- Since the E-rate program began, it was not required that there be internet content management (Children's Internet Protection Act or CIPA) beyond the school campus; this FCC order now has that language in it. We are very well situated for this with our current Lightspeed Relay implementation.
- It is separate from E-rate but it will cause a lot of confusion. These are temporary funds.
- Scott covered some of the things that this program is and is not. It is NOT a way to refresh a district's on-premise networking equipment and it is also not to be used to upgrade existing access for students or staff. It is also not a funding source for replacing a fleet of portable devices. One requirement will be an accounting, by name, of purchases made through this program.
- Districts should refrain from using this funding source to extend their school district's Internet service/line beyond the school campus. For example districts don't extend and operate the school district's water, electricity and gas lines/service to homes beyond the school campus. Similarly, it doesn't make sense for a variety of reasons, in the short and long term, for a district to also extend and operate their KY K-12 Internet line/services through KDE's Internet hub (aka KIH3) to homes beyond the school campus. Homes beyond the school campus need to get their last mile wired/wireless Internet service through private sector organizations.
- **\$600M Last Mile Internet (LMI) to the home** – This is also termed the Broadband Deployment Fund. During the 2021 KY legislative session, the KY legislature appropriated \$300M from their CARES funding to go toward the last mile to the home within Kentucky. This is a competitive grant matching program under the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) and will culminate in a \$600M total investment with the matching portion. KY will have at least two middle mile networks in every county, but there are specific areas in KY that still do not have last mile wired/wireless Internet connectivity to the home. This program will incentivize companies/last mile Internet service providers to put in that last mile infrastructure and Internet connectivity to homes. The Request for Information (RFI) should be released at any time by the Finance and Administration Cabinet (FAC).
- **\$8.1M Last Mile Internet (LMI) Beyond the School Campus** – This is the \$8M that was available to districts in the Oct 2020 timeframe to assist districts in getting last mile beyond the school campus for KY K-12 students. There is a cutoff date of June 30, 2021 for districts to spend those remaining funds.
- **10% of Cares 2.0 and Cares 3.0 Funds**—Good news! At the KDE agency level, 90% of the funds flowed directly to the school districts and 10% were allocated at the KDE agency level with the majority of that 10% going toward state shared services on behalf of our school districts. We were able to extend the continuation of the services covered in CARES 1.0 (e.g., online registration and Campus Learning available for all 171 districts through IC, Internet content management available for all 171 districts through Lightspeed for KY K-12 students when using school provided computers on the school campus and beyond the school campus, increasing Internet bandwidth speeds per student for districts, digital learning coaches (DLCs) in districts, virtual/remote learning options for districts). In addition to the continuation of these items, we also received approval by Commissioner Glass to fund the following for technology enabled services:
 - Improved User Experience for all 171 districts with Active Directory (AD)
 - Data Visualization for districts through Infinite Campus

- Kentucky Virtual Library for districts
- Kentucky Educational Television (KET) funding approved for equipment refresh for services for students/teachers
- Blended Work Environment – There are a lot of considerations as we look at working in a blended/hybrid environment vs. a 100% remote work environment.

(38:49) KY K-12 KETS EdTech Product Standards –

In general, a person/organization can't directly obtain/buy an item that by law or regulation that you are not supposed to have, use or own. Nor can a person/organization have another person/organization, on your behalf, obtain/buy an item, that by law or regulation, that you are not supposed to have, receive, use or own.

The 2018-2024 KETS Master Plan is a document incorporated by reference to a KY regulation ([KETS 2018 - 2024 KETS Master Plan - Kentucky Department of Education](#)). Within Appendix D & E in that Plan, it lists the specific KY statutes and regs that are in place that support and require KETS standards, the added benefits of having KETS standards for KY K-12 and the specific EdTech items that have KETS standards.

- Regardless of funding source (federal, state, local, etc.) districts must only buy, obtain, receive, use and own KETS product standards.
- This is also true if the district obtains or buys the technology item directly or if the district has another person/organization buy or obtain a technology item on the district's behalf.

For example, if (1) a district uses their district funds to pay \$50,000 for both the IT salary/wages for 4 students in their district and the IT training costs for 4 students/adults AND (2) that \$50,000 in costs that the district paid is eligible to be reimbursed/repaid with a federal grant funding source, then it is ok for the district to be reimbursed/repaid that \$50,000 in either (a) cash from that federal grant funding source or (b) in \$50,000 in KETS product standards (e.g., 50 KETS standard computers or 30 KETS product standard network components, etc.) through the federal grant funds. The district shouldn't be reimbursed/repaid that \$50,000 in non-KETS product standards (e.g., with 50 non KETS product standard computers or with 30 non KETS standard network components, etc.) from the federal grant funds or any other type of funding source.

Our September 30th e-mail to all district CIOs/Edtech leaders titled “Announcement of new KETS contracts for desktops and enterprise laptops” and our Oct 2020 webcast for KY K-12 CIOs/EdTech leaders (i.e., its video & written summary/key points is available at [EdTech Webcast: October 2020 | KDE MEDIA PORTAL \(ky.gov\)](#)) discusses in detail our KETS product standards for KY K-12 desktop and laptop computers. The Sept 30th e-mail and Oct webcast with written summary describe the KETS product standards for KY K-12 enterprise level computers that came as a result of the Sept 2020 RFP & contract award by the KY Finance & Administration Cabinet (FAC). FAC has the lead for KY contracts, including for KY K-12 contracts that lead to KETS product standards. There are 4 vendors that were both (a) responsive to the 19 basic terms & conditions that are required by FAC for a KY technology contract and (b) met the specific technology specifications for KY K-12 enterprise desktops and/or enterprise level laptops. Those four vendors are Dell, HP, Lenovo and Microsoft. Unfortunately, two of our previous KETS contract holders (i.e., Apple and Bytespeed) did not get selected for that KY K-12 KETS contract and, thus, since 30 Sept 2020 are no longer a KETS product standard for KY K-12 enterprise desktops & enterprise laptops because either the vendor didn't submit a bid response by FAC's required bid submission deadline and/or the vendor would not agree to each of FAC's 19 basic terms and conditions that are required of a KY technology contract.

As we also mentioned in the Oct 2020 webcast, Apple iPads and MacBook Airs could continue to be obtained by the district by either the district directly paying for the iPad/MacBook Air or having another person/organization acquire the iPad/MacBook Air on the district's behalf. That is still true today. However, the district must first submit a waiver to KDE and then have that waiver approved by KDE for x number of MacBook Airs before the district can obtain/receive them since Apple is no longer a KETS product standard for KY K-12 enterprise desktops and KY K-12 enterprise laptops obtained after 30 Sept 2020. Districts that

obtained an Apple desktop and/or Apple MacBook Pro prior to 1 Oct 2020 can continue to use each of them until they go end of life (i.e., no longer work well/reliably or can no longer be repaired).

(45:01) Chief Digital Officer Update –

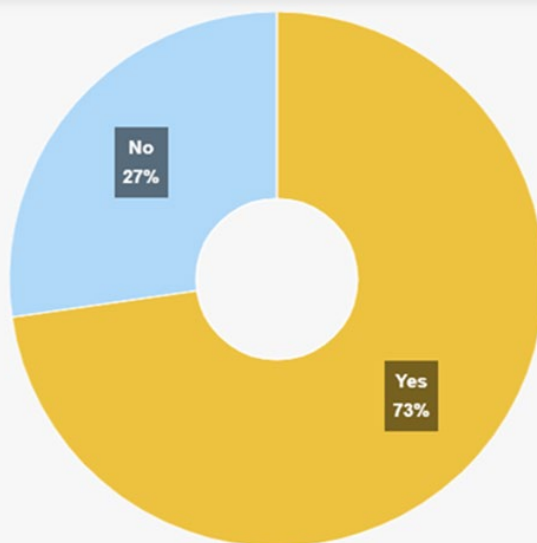
- The Digital Learning Coach (DLC) Summit is going on right now and we have over 500 DLCs serving in Kentucky! This is being led by Laura Raganas and sponsored by Kentucky Educational Television (KET). That event goes through 2 p.m. and we will continue to support that role and our digital learning coaches will remain a high priority as part of the People Side of Things in KY K-12 education technology.
- The library media standards are now official and have been posted to our kystandards.org website. We will now move into the implementation phase of these standards. These will join our academic standards for technology that were fully approved in March and our academic standards for computer science.
- As an awareness point, the next iteration of the Digital Readiness window will open July 1st and run through September 15th. We have narrowed down the survey questions through a healthy data diet and we are continuing to review and reduce the questions. The main emphasis this year is to clean-up the questions and further distinguish between inventory-related questions vs. programmatic questions.
- Online and virtual schools update – We shared previously regarding the attendance waiver and we now have 116 district who have submitted the waiver. Please get engaged in that conversation even if your district hasn't yet submitted a waiver request and we'll continue to share the work being done.
- We have a ton of summer events that all wrap around maximizing the effective use of technology for instruction. These events are happening and being sponsored by a variety of organizations, educational cooperatives, and edtech leaders.

(54:42) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:

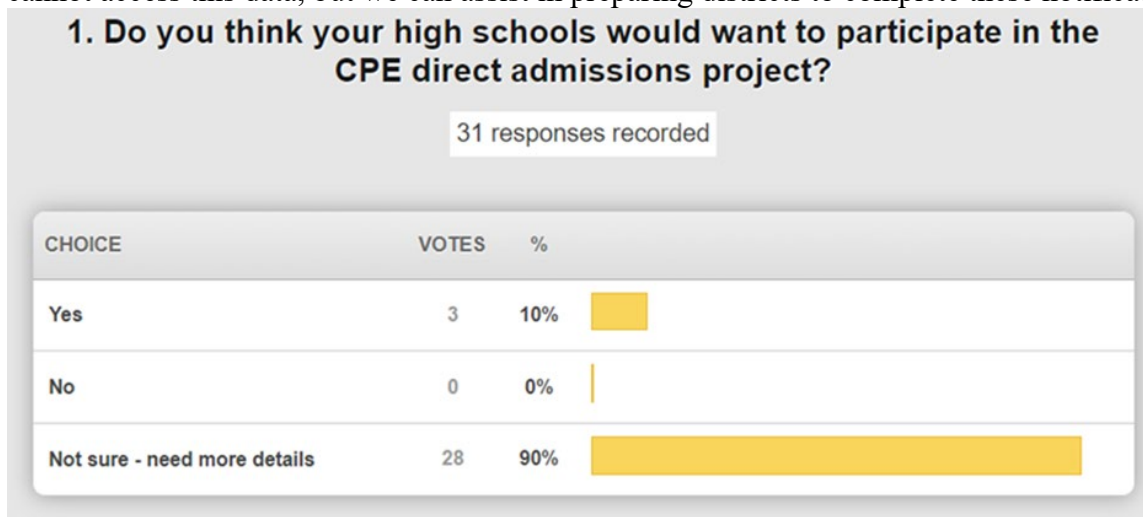
- School Report Card
 - 2019-2020 – Year 3 Financial Transparency open to public.
 - 2020-2021 – School Climate data will be included; 2020 SB158 accountability requirement. See the [KDE Quality of School Climate and Safety webpage](#) for more details including the survey questions.
- Supplemental School Year Program - By the end of July, the program indicator will be available in Infinite Campus for identification of students participating. There will be 2 indicators to differentiate between a student participating and then a senior participating in the supplemental school year program.

2. Will your district be participating in the Supplemental School Year Program?

33 responses recorded



- Other Items:
 - CPE Direct Admissions – KDE is assisting the Council on Postsecondary Education with set up of communications options districts can use to notify students and parents about eligibility for college admissions and to promote completion of the FAFSA. Students with a certain GPA (considering 2.75 and higher) will be eligible for direct admission, but they are looking at two separate groupings. KDE cannot access this data, but we can assist in preparing districts to complete these notification processes.



- For details on the following training opportunities, go to the [KSIS Training webpage](#).
 - July 21 – KDE provided KSIS Infinite Campus beginning-of-year training, KDE Media Portal
 - Aug. 2-6 – Infinite Campus beginning of year training; participation is free
 - Nov. 4-5 – Ky. Infinite Campus Interchange, Omni Louisville Hotel
 - Nov. 15-19 – Infinite Campus Virtual National Training Week, \$499 per district
- IC Bills did go out and need to be paid by August.

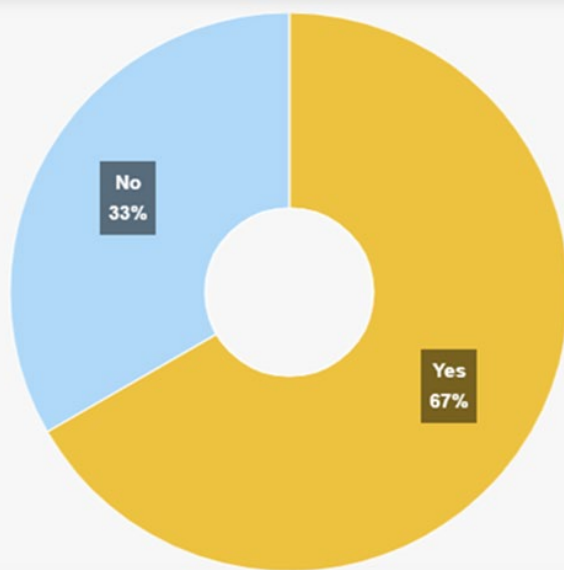
(1:03:23) EdTech Services and Initiatives Update –

- Relay Phase II – We are in the second full week of the rollout and are attempting to complete 20 sites per week. The goal is to be complete by the mid-August timeframe.
- Bandwidth Upgrades – We are working on several upgrades at the current time that will begin in the early fall.
- Hardware Refresh – We are working with AT&T to refresh over 100 Cisco routers and there is some difficulty in getting the needed components. We are working to overcome the supply chain shortage so that we can move forward.
- Connected User Experience – Part I of this experience is a necessity to upgrade active directory as it is today. Beginning the week of June 21st, Volta will be coming to your district to “rack and stack” two servers based on a schedule set up between you and the field staff. The week of June 28th is our pilot phase to test out the migration of the directory services. Then around July 15th, tentatively, we are kicking up the velocity migration for the rest of the state. This will be completed after hours and should be a benign experience that doesn’t impact services. Phase 3 will be upgrading the virtual domain controllers in Azure. Phase 4 will be the migration of security services. Phase 5 will be the decommission and removal of the old hardware and some possible cleanup of the KEN rack. This project intersects with the Lightspeed Relay project. We are going to be covering the baseline licensing package at the state level as well as bringing an implementation team to your district to get all of this in place over the next 2 to 3 years. Field staff will be in communication with you on all of this and we’ll have some special meetings or communications as needed.
- As we talk about security and all the cybercrime activity, the KETS Security Team has been working very hard to make improvements around our dDos mitigation efforts. We have hundreds more attacks over last year and we’ve still managed to keep the impact of these attacks very low.

(1:11:37) Annual Cybersecurity Healthcheck Update - Every year at this time we spend a few minutes to remind you regarding our mandated requirement to provide to our respective boards in how well we are doing regarding cybersafety. On June 8th, an email went out that details some recommendations in preparing this report. If you have questions or you are a new CIO, please reach out to Bob at Robert.hackworth@education.ky.gov . This is also the time to provide your training needs and your security needs to better protect your schools and district. The deadline for completion is August 31 each year; there is no set template for the report, but the email does provide some guidelines and things you may want to consider including in your report.

3. Have you begun the district Cybersecurity Health Check report that you will need to get to your local board? The end of August will be here before you know it!

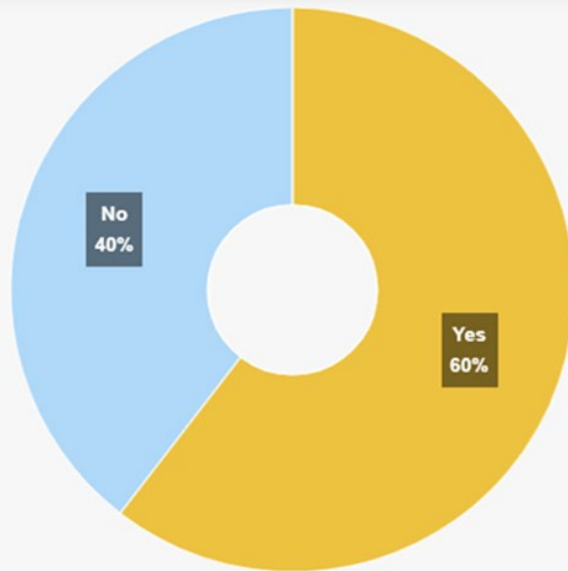
36 responses recorded



This is very encouraging. Please don't wait--August will be here before you know it.

4. As cyber-insurance has gone mainstream over the past few years, has your district begun paying for cyber-insurance?

43 responses recorded



We are seeing some issues with cyber-insurance and it is a double-edged sword. We are seeing that due to this, cyber criminals are going for higher ransoms. The recommendation by a high percentage of organizations is to NOT pay these ransoms.

5. Has your district removed Local Admin Permissions from some or all of your users?

43 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes, focused on staff accounts with elevated privileges (access PII, financial, etc.)	4	9%	<div style="width: 9%;"></div>
Yes, all types of staff accounts	6	14%	<div style="width: 14%;"></div>
Yes, student accounts	11	26%	<div style="width: 26%;"></div>
Yes, students and staff	19	44%	<div style="width: 44%;"></div>
Nope	3	7%	<div style="width: 7%;"></div>

This is a key security tool, but we do know that access permissions can cause some issues. Bob would love to hear from some of you that have done this and what issues you may have had and how it worked out as we pivoted to remote work/remote learning. Lessons learned would be beneficial for those who have not done this.

(1:21:12) Annual KETS Vendor Meeting Update – Our annual KETS Vendor Conference has been set for Wednesday, July 14th from 1 to 4 p.m. This will be an on-line meeting only. We'll be covering some budget and legislative activity and how to do business with the Commonwealth. There will be some other topics and the

agenda is being finalized. We will have the opportunity to pose and discuss questions, so please send those to Melissa Moore @ Melissa.moore@education.ky.gov. While we encourage them to join in our monthly virtual meetings, they do not actively participate and this meeting is dedicated to listening to and have a conversation with our KETS vendor community.

(1:24:11) Other Items:

- Zoominfo - All the junk mail, cold calls, cold emails, etc. are nearly 100% ineffective. When asked where the contact information is coming from that they use, a very high percentage are responding that Zoominfo is harvesting and selling this data. David discussed the information he sent out with the agenda for today on how to remove yourself from these types of lists. We work primarily through the competitive bid process and there is no way around that; many vendors who contact you through these methods do not understand the Commonwealth's procurement practices. Click on the following link to remove your contact info from Zoominfo: [Remove Your ZoomInfo Professional Profile](#)
- August KBE Meeting – In July, we'll discuss all the different funding sources available to use toward meeting the education technology needs. We do this annually and it is required by law to bring this information forward and present it to our board. In the past 30 years since KERA was put in place, this will be the highest amount of available funding we have ever had to go toward education technology needs of the districts.
- OEA/NTI Study – The Office of Education Accountability is completing a study of non-traditional instructions or NTI. Staff from OET met with OEA and we based all the information provided to them on what we collect from you each year from the digital readiness data, Brightbytes, and the monthly survey questions we asked you through March of 2021. This year, OEA will be using our data versus sending out individual district surveys. Their focus for OET was on computers and Internet access beyond the school campus.
- Online Testing – Kentucky has completed the largest number of online testing EVER done and 1,226, 289 online tests have been completed to date.

Thanks again for joining us today.