Summary of the July 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 July 20, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/district-technology-leadership-webcast/2021/07/edtech-july-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.

(2:39) August 2021 Kentucky Board of Education Meeting - Each year we get the opportunity to present our KETS technology need and educate the Kentucky Board of Education on everything that we've accomplished over the past year and address any questions. As we've done this, we have found that the board is interested in all the available funding sources; therefore, we prepare the KETS Operational Plan document showing all of the funding sources available to go toward the technology unmet need of $366M as outlined in the 2018-2024 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology. This year we identified $356.7M in available funding that may go towards meeting our technology need.

While we cover a lot of topics and provide all the funding sources that may go toward meeting the KETS need, the board is only required to approve the disbursement of the $15.4M KETS funding. We also use this opportunity to discuss the reduction in our KETS funding appropriation and that going forward we need to prioritize restoring the KETS funding to the original amount or beyond to support KETS state shared services and KETS offers of assistance.

We also present the KETS Timeline and the KETS Infographic each year--these are presented to provide a history of the success of our program over the years as well as sharing statistics in a graphical format regarding KETS. These two documents are important in depicting both the history and the current status of our program and they updated twice a year so that they are up to date before we present to the KBE in August and before the beginning of the legislative session in January.

Four to six percent of an organization's overall budget is normally what is spent toward technology in private and public sector… we are within that range but at the lower end of it, at close to 4%. We use a variety of sources to determine our total spend on education technology. No other state includes and shows all the types of funding sources going toward education technology like Kentucky does each year. The standardization of our KY K-12 financial management system and the cooperation of all offices in KDE and our district CIOs/EdTech leaders are very helpful in making that happen. When looking at the upcoming school year, we have $356.7M to address the technology needs of districts; this is the closest we have ever come to meeting our overall unmet need since the beginning of KETS in 1992. This is largely due to the temporary federal funds (aka, CARES) appropriated during the pandemic.

The people side of things is an area we have put great emphasis on and one of our biggest area of progress is with the increased number of digital learning coaches. It is our hope that districts sustain the funding necessary

to continue to fund this position when all the federal funding expires. When you look at the $356M, the $15.4M KETS dollars is only 4% and our districts have always had to looking at a variety of funding alternatives to help make up that gap.

KETS Operational Plan – This plan (see the attached attachment) is broken down into four categories and we have used this format for several years. Mike walked us through the document and we recommend that you listen to the entire presentation via the video/audio beginning around the **12:30** mark. A few of key points covered include:

- Services and KETS offers of assistance within that $15.4M
- Funding sources beyond that $15.4M that go toward the full $356M
- In June's webcast/summary notes we outlined the new temporary federal funds that KDE has dedicated to support some key state shared services that will benefit the education technology within our schools and districts. Our Commissioner has been very supportive of education technology services for our school districts.
- SFCC and Program Areas are funds that won't show up in our normal tracking through the Technology Activity Report (TAR); however, we coordinate with the appropriate staff to ensure these funds are shown.

KETS Timeline – The updated KETS Timeline was shared with everyone (it's attached to this e-mail). This is available now in our KETS Master Plan in [Appendix G](). This document has the new KDE logo/branding and we reviewed the 2021 entries made to the KETS Timeline. Phil Coleman is credited with birthing the timeline concept and it has been an excellent way to showcase our program successes and milestones over time. You may listen to this beginning at the **24:37** mark and we have included the new entries below in text format. The following are the new historic milestones that have been added to our KETS timeline.

2021

Revised Academic Standards for Technology
Kentucky again reaffirms the value of education technology to transform learning experiences through the adoption of revised Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Technology. The adoption of 704 KAR 8:090 by the KY Board of Education was also approved by the legislature with an effective date of March 2, 2021. The KAS for Technology are required standards as they define the competencies that are tied to minimum graduation requirements, where all Kentucky graduates must demonstrate performance-based competencies in technology.

First Academic Standards for Library Media
For the first time ever, the KY Board of Education adopted and the legislature approved the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Library Media learning, 704 KAR 8:100, with an effective date of May 4, 2021. This marks the first time KAS for Library Media have been developed to further define the required learning standards when students are engaged through library media related learning. These standards are comprehensive and cross curricular as they fit into learning inside of other content areas. These new learning standards fit tightly into every school as every public school in Kentucky is required to have a library media center with a certified school library media leader.

The Year of 100% Virtual STLP
STLP responds to COVID-19 pandemic by shifting to an all digital format for an entire year. Thanks to years of foundational development, STLP was poised to take full advantage of district digital learning leadership, 1:1 initiatives, and KETS resources to overcome a pandemic to still provide relevant opportunities for students to participate. 100% of all STLP student-focused events/activities were successfully conducted virtually.

Now more than 550 Digital Learning Coaches in districts
A critical component of any successful digital learning initiative is the support provided by Digital Learning Coaches (DLC). Districts with these support structures in place are ready to collaboratively support digital learning strategies and workflows across grade levels, content areas and job classifications. Through the pandemic, districts realized the importance of these support roles, through the "People Side of K-12 EdTech in KY" and the network grew to exceed 550 DLCs -- a 285% growth.

Virtual Attendance Waiver
The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) officially approved a waiver of 702 KAR 7:125, Pupil Attendance for full time enrolled virtual students, on May 18, 2021. Not only did this provide necessary flexibility for districts seeking to provide virtual learning options for the 2021-2022 school year but it officially reaffirmed the value of virtual learning and provided some necessary measures and assurances detailing the anatomy of high-quality online and virtual schools, programs and academies.

KY's Largest and Most Successful K-12 Online, High-Stakes Assessment Conducted Two Years in a Row
KY had back to back exceptional years with our K-12 Online Summative Testing initiative, setting new records by charging our way through yet another year by completing the largest testing cycle to date with stellar results returned exceptionally fast to teachers and school leaders. 1,228, 115 tests were completed in the Spring 2021 test window by students in 3rd through 11th grades across all 171 KY school districts with near zero issues. This includes additional online testing sessions from CTE, vocational and ACT. No other state has come close to experiencing this level of success with deploying online testing for their K-12 students.

Kentucky Becomes First and Only State to Provide Internet Safety and Protections for 100% of Schools to Meet New Federal Requirements
With the launch of new Emergency Connectivity federal funds for school districts (ECF), for the first time, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) details a new requirement for CIPA (Children's Internet Protection Act) relating to every district-owned student device. This new requirement states that the CIPA technology protection measure applies to all student computers no matter where the student is located (anywhere, anytime, and always on). To date, almost 700K school and district devices are now loaded with a modern internet safety and protection tool and the ability to monitor and manage Internet usage for every district device on the school campus and beyond the school campus. Kentucky K-12 becomes the first state nationally to have every school implement this new federal requirement for every student.

KySTE KY K-12 CIO Virtual Summit
OET, in conjunction with our Kentucky Society for Technology in Education (KySTE) partnership, held our first 100% virtual CIO Summit on April 20 continuing our annual summit for the 8th year. Attendance and participation were outstanding with 87% of our districts (140 unique districts along with KSB and KSD) joining virtually to engage in facilitator-led conversation on upcoming edtech topics/strategies/approaches to gain the experience, knowledge and wisdom of our chief information officers.

Campus Learning Available to All KY Schools
Expands tools available to align Kentucky Academic Standards to curriculum and enhance communication tools available to all students, remote and in-person. Provides interoperability solution to districts to link Infinite Campus to other Learning Management Systems, including Google Classroom. Other tools include: Curriculum Planner, Unit/Lesson Plan/Assignment Library, Quick Assessments, Standards Portfolio and Progress Monitor and Score analysis tools. CARES Act funding utilized to offer a premium product to all schools and districts beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.

KDE and Kentucky K-12 Not Only Survives but Thrives through Covid-19 Pandemic
KDE staff and the KY K-12 environment was uniquely poised to make the quick pivot to virtual meetings, distance digital learning, and virtual cloud operations services. KY K-12 is "the" pioneer and "the" national leader in most aspects of education technology so KY K-12 is and was in a much better position and prepared for telecommuting, virtual operations, virtual resources, virtual meetings and cloud based services than the other 49 states since we've been doing all of these for over a decade. This past year put an unprecedented load on all of our systems and major services, yet we thrived and did so while continuing to implement new projects, upgrade services and provide connectivity and availability with 99.99% uptime.

(29:54) **2021 CIO/EdTech Leader Summit Feedback -** This year we moved from tables to breakout rooms for our annual CIO Summit that was held in a virtual format. It was very successful and we review all the feedback to guide us and inform our work and decision making. Your time and input during this year's summit was appreciated. The attached document contains our big takeaways from the 4 big topics discussed by our district CIOs during the summit.

Topic 4: The Road to Tomorrow's Connected User Experience, Modern Learning and Interoperability -
The summit is the pinnacle of all the communication and feedback we conduct throughout the year. We really depend on your feedback and, in this case, validation of our thought process. For the improved user experience, your feedback validated our direction and planning. The primary ask was to validate not only the evidence pointing to the inefficiencies in our current environment from both the end-user and IT Administrators perspective, but also to outline the concept of a framework that automates the provisioning of a single secure cloud-based identity, and allows for greater ease-of-use of this single identity for secure access into all targeted services and applications.

What we found is that we need to phase this project and have short and long-term goals:
- Update active directory on-premise in place as it sits today and those pilots have been completed.
- Core migration statewide started this week and we will ramp up to completing 10 to 15 per week once we get settled into a good pace. The readiness guide is ready and the hardware is rolling out. This migration will be completed on a regional basis.

- 2022 – The long-term goal is a true cloud-based, single secure identity that will remove on-premise services in the next three to five years. There is a lot of work and many unanswered questions as we work toward a true connected user experience.
- In the short term, we hope to put in place an effort to secure everyone's current identity; CARES 3 funds will be used to help complete this work. It will prepare us for the long-term strategy of moving all of this to a cloud-based strategy.

Topic 3: Online and Virtual School Upgrades - Ben Maynard joined us today to bring forward the highlights from Topic #3.
1. The CIO Summit feedback validated our understanding that a significant percentage of our EdTech leaders are involved in the core planning of Online and Virtual School design and participation in your respective districts. However, there is clearly also a group of our EdTech leaders who are not directly involved OR their district has no current plans in this space (districts expressing a desire to rush back to old normal with no virtual option).
2. Major connections made with dual credit expansion, credit acceleration and credit recovery efforts.
3. Lots of platform and vendor partner discussions with major successes hinging on the partnerships made.

Question #1 dealt with the similarities and differences of the pandemic of online virtual; edtech leaders were very good at discussing and sharing stories of the learning strategies and how it plays into the long term online learning strategies. The success of K-5 virtual options was discussed; this hasn't been an option in the past but we have since had over 100 districts apply for the waiver to continue options for this in some way for elementary schools. Another area discussed was professional development for our teachers.

Question #2 – New Demands – One of the major ones was requirements for students to participate in online/virtual and what supports they need. As kids were learning at different times, there was discussions about how to provide technical support and learning flexibilities.

Topic 2: Life and Operations after the Pandemic and the Associated Funding - Since the time of the CIO Summit, we received a third round of federal funding. We were able to validate a lot of what we thought we knew and the abilities and challenges in the use of these funds. We used the guiding questions to lead the conversations. A few of the major takeaways through the discussion were:
1. Many participants mentioned the ability/necessity to use new technology tools; the pandemic sped up some of this and the federal funding provided the ability.
2. Ensuring that families with multiple children in the household had a good experience was mentioned multiple times by districts and this was no surprise and is a challenging situation.
3. There are challenges with the ability to use multiple funding streams; this is a good problem to have, but you have to consider the ability to track, report, and justify the differing pots of monies. Another consideration for each purchase is the maintenance and sustainability.
4. A need to increase support staff was another point of conversation mentioned several times. We will continually circle back to the people side of things and emphasize the need for sufficient staffing with a special emphasis on the digital learning coach position.

What can we do from the Office of Education Technology? Most respondents asked that we continue doing what we are doing and we take that as a huge compliment. The KETS Enterprise was very well prepared and has continued to meet/deal with the challenges. Having the foundational things in place was an asset. David added that some districts said they were going to "bank" their offers while they were maximizing their federal funding opportunities.

Topic 1: Now What? - Technology went from being a thing, to being THE thing. We covered the items that should/will "Stick" as we move forward and beyond the pandemic. Then we covered the items that will continue to be a challenge or we should move away from.

Question #1 - Continue/Nurture

1. 1:1 implementations will probably stick moving forward. Whether a student is allowed to take the device home or not will vary. Allowing students to have and take home a device affords low-income students the same opportunities. Chromebooks became an enormous backup to paper and pencil. It changed the culture of providing a device or going 1:1 for primary students.

2. Technology became a powerful tool that supported and transformed education in many ways.
   - Many districts were well-positioned to use digital content and saw increased use in a last mile Internet beyond the school campus (LMI).
   - Teachers really stepped up and branched out delivering instruction remotely or in a hybrid fashion was very new to a large percentage of our teachers.
   - Sped up our teachers into the digital world and reinforced the need for people side of things through the use of the digital learning coach. The Digital Learning Coaches in K-12 were our unsung heroes in helping our teachers and administrators navigate the use of the technology remotely and for effective delivery of instruction for both fully remote and hybrid. The increased use of technology tools and the ongoing professional development is something that should be continued.
   - Changed how districts operate with home/hospital, credit recovery, and home school populations. Created new pathways to reach these students that will be carried forward.
   - Classrooms relied on our KY K-12 Chief Information Officers/EdTech leaders during the pandemic for their knowledge and support. This reliance and inclusion of the education technology staff and having a seat at the table is something that we'd like to see stick along with the increased education technology staffing at the school/district.
   - It sped up teachers and students using the technology in order to continue learning and delivery of instruction. We want the use of the technology to stick and the professional development to continue so that we can continue to increase the tools and teaching methods available.

3. Had districts identifying those students without internet access beyond the school campus to do their schoolwork as they have never looked at it before. While there are several different programs and funding initiatives to provide/pay for Internet access beyond the school campus for our students, many districts have purchased/provided access to mobile devices/computers for students to use beyond the school campus. Moving forward districts said they would like to continue to be informed on the status of Internet access beyond the school campus from these various programs and funding mechanisms. Many of the discount programs are temporary in nature and the concern is that parents may not be able to sustain this service once the discount periods expire.

4. While we all did the best we could in quickly pivoting to a virtual learning environment, we need to go back now and ensure that we are using best practices rather than just good intentions regarding instruction and cyber security.

5. Value the change of accepting virtual as an acceptable way of collaborating and want to see this continue in the future. From the learning perspective, schools and districts will have to come up with best practices for delivery of instruction—speaking to in-person, remote, and/or hybrid.

Question #2 – Thing to discontinue/reduce going forward

1. Paper – Districts said we need to continue to reduce and not rely on paper copies, paper packets, etc. We learned during the pandemic that it wasn't necessary!

2. Hotspots - Almost all 24 tables of CIOs felt the purchase, tracking and monitoring of hotspots was overwhelming and unsustainable in the long term. Requires way too much of their staff's time given their plate is already full.

3. Districts indicated that they believe that hybrid teaching where a teacher is teaching to both in-person students and remote students.

<u>Question #3 - Transitions/Hurdles to Next School Year</u>

1. Chromebooks - There are many areas of concern in retrieving, replacement, repair of these devices. Summer school is expanded and how those devices will be handled. Some working on how to handle damage to the computers and working with parents who may use suspending Internet access, that is used for schoolwork, from their child as a disciplinary measure. Another hurdle in this area is the supply chain and delays in getting devices and the needed parts to service devices.
2. Federal funding - See the proper use and sustainability plan for these purchases as a hurdle.
3. Degree to when/how much remote learning will still be implemented may be a challenge.
4. Districts mentioned lots of concern about teacher burnout and teachers possibly reverting to previous way of doing things. Same concern for technology staff.
5. Post pandemic, districts want to transition back the primary responsibility of getting mobile hotspots and paying for Internet services beyond the school campus to others (e.g., to parents, to other organizations beyond the school campus).
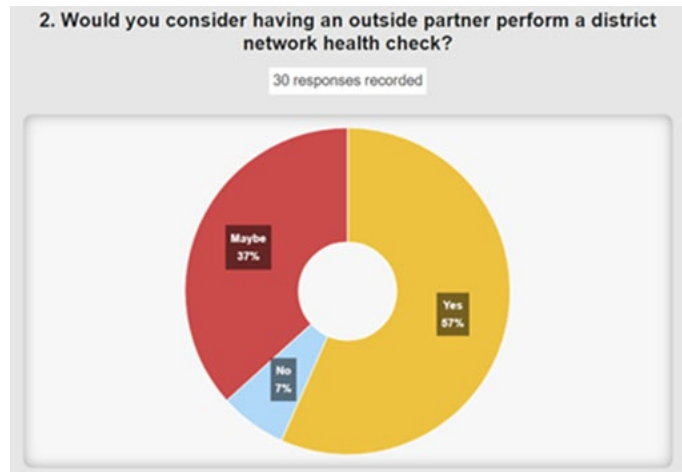
(1:09:21) Annual KY K-12 Cybersecurity Healthcheck - This is your friendly reminder that the deadline is coming up and this annual report to your local board must be presented before August 31. Robert Hackworth explained that there isn't a set format, but he shared some keys areas that you may want to cover in the preparation of your report and this was also sent out to each CIO in an email in early June. This is also a good time to share your weaknesses/risks and what you would do with more funds and resources. 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.

I Recommend Coaching Your Board up on:

- **Kentucky's data privacy laws**, what constitutes a breach (your Board Attorney should be up on this, too),
- **What sorts of data the district works with** (it's MORE than just student PII – can include teachers, parents, network diagrams, etc.),
- **What data systems exist** (e.g. MUNIS, IC, Cafeteria, Library) and who or what entity is responsible for their security (external vendor, KDE, or the district), and are they backed up? What happens if local data systems are <u>flooded</u> or internet goes down? Can "school" still happen?
- **What you believe the risks are** in your district (e.g. had a phishing problem? Crypto-locker? Weak passwords?) and
- **What the district is doing NOW about security** risks (e.g. strengthen passwords, awareness campaigns, trainings, friendly phishing campaigns, discipline, DMARC/DKIM, Data Loss Prevention, HD encryption, external email banners, safe links, safe attachments, home network security awareness given the move to NTI),
- **What you plan to do about security** weaknesses in the near future (MFA, address stale accounts, implement MS A3 or A5 with data loss protection, message encryption, etc), and what you would LOVE to do about it but cannot right now, and why (money, manpower, staff pushback, etc)
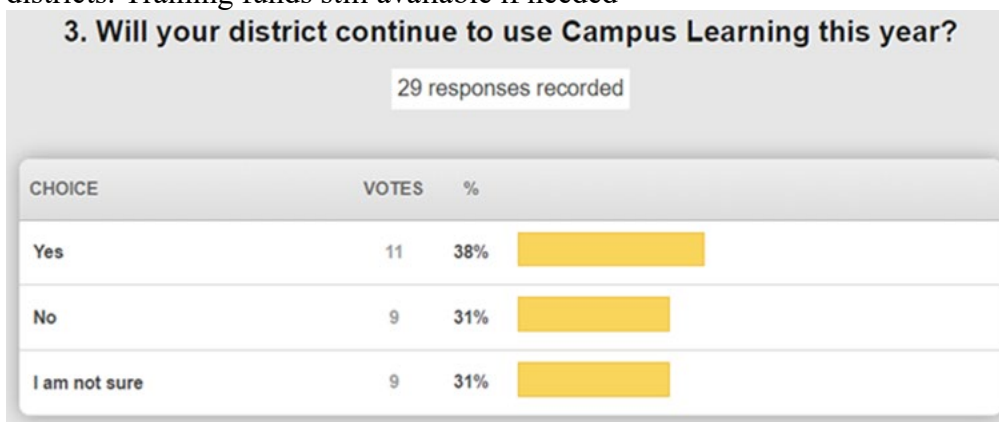
David recognized Bob as one of the leading Chief Security Officers if not the leading K-12 CSO in the nation and how valued his work is in KY K-12 over 2 decades. Emphasis was put on sharing the tool that was developed in the People Side of Things study to determine the human resource needs to support your cybersecurity and instructional efforts within the district with your local board. The Digital Readiness Report is another excellent tool to present the current instructional/education technology landscape.

(1:17:45) Digital Healthcheck Update - We are working very hard to accomplish several things over the summer to allow for the active directory upgrade. We are finishing up the Lightspeed deployment and have over 80% of those complete at this point. We are also implementing several bandwidth upgrades. Other items being worked on are router replacements, dDos service enhancements, firewall upgrades and all of this is being done as we continuously look at the health of our network. When we began years ago, the network was pristine. Over the years, we have piled on a lot of "things" to our districts' networks and it is a very good idea, from time to time, to access the health of your network. We are going to be sending out some recommendations for a partner to complete a network healthcheck; we plan to complete the same thing at KDE. It is important that the network be clean and of a healthy nature. There are a variety of partners available to select from and also a variety of funding sources available.

1. Have you completed a network health check audit for your district in the past 12 months?

30 responses recorded

Yes 13%
No 87%

2. Would you consider having an outside partner perform a district network health check?

30 responses recorded

Maybe 37%
Yes 57%
No 7%

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

- School Report Card 2021-2022 – School Safety opened July 15. New collection for superintendent message this year – communication has gone out about this. Thanks to all the WAAPOCs who worked to ensure the appropriate SRC contacts were setup.
- New method to collect ineffective equity data for reporting – a survey was sent to superintendents and principals on July 14. Statute prevents KDE from collecting person-level data, only aggregated data is reported in the survey.
- Sunset/Hospice any unnecessary or duplicative data collections – KDE data stewards are reviewing data collections to identify any that could be discontinued. District feedback is welcome.
- Open House School/District directory– please help to ensure demographics and contacts are correct by reviewing district detail and asking schools to review their contacts. Contacts can be updated by WAAPOCs through the People Role Manager Application (also known as WSA).
- The Kentucky Academic Standards for Library Media are available in Infinite Campus
- Data entry is due prior to Sept. 1 for participation in the Supplemental School Year Program (SSYP). The indicator will be available in the Campus 2128 release planned for July 22. The indicator allows districts to track and monitor students participating in the SSYP program. Detailed data entry guidance, Supplemental School Year Program Indicator, is available on the KSIS Data Standards webpage.
- CPE Direct Admissions update – As mentioned last month, KDE is assisting the Council on Postsecondary Education with a new initiative to encourage college going and to streamline the application process. Processes are in place in Infinite Campus to do adhoc reporting and to provide communications options districts can use to notify students and parents about college eligibility and to promote completion of the FAFSA. Will continue to give updates as more information is available.
- Reminder – Campus Learning and Campus On-Line Registration subsidized again this year for all districts. Training funds still available if needed

3. Will your district continue to use Campus Learning this year?

29 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	11	38%	
No	9	31%	
I am not sure	9	31%	

4. Will your district continue to use Campus OnLine registration this year?

30 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	22	73%	
No	3	10%	
I am not sure	5	17%	

- BOY training is set for 7/21 and the schedule is structured so that you can join and leave as necessary according the schedule.
- BOY Training will include Campus trainer to go over new teacher look. All teachers will use new interface this year.

5. Are your teachers ready for the new Campus interface?

28 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	3	11%	
No	3	11%	
I am not sure	22	79%	

- For details on the following training opportunities, go to the KSIS Training webpage.
  - August 2- 6 – Infinite Campus (national) beginning-of-year training; participation is free
  - November 4-5 – Kentucky Infinite Campus Interchange, Omni Louisville Hotel; registration to open in early September
  - November 15 – 19 – Infinite Campus Virtual National Training Week; $499 per district.

Thanks again for joining us today.