

## Summary of the September 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 September 21, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at:

<https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2021/09/edtech-webcast-september-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.

David began the meeting by recalling the social media memories coming up about districts we've visited over the years. Bringing the webcast to you from a school district and highlighting the good things going on in our districts is special for us and we look forward to resuming and continuing those district visits soon.

**(3:40) Senate Bill 1 Guidance to School Districts: Remote Instruction** – As a result of the 2021 Extraordinary Session, the legislature passed Senate Bill 1, *an act relating to the delivery of education and care for children and declaring an emergency*. SB1 provides supports and flexibilities for schools as they seek to provide the best education possible for Kentucky's students. One aspect of the bill covered the portion of the bills that relates to remote instruction.

While there are ten main areas to what is covered in the language of the bill, Marty Park focused on Section 5 of the bill language centered around remote instruction. While there are operational definitions to all types of remote instruction, most people refer to them collectively as virtual or NTI. We, however, must use the operational definitions so we can create the structures and processes for them to be implemented at the school and district level.

***As previously defined and released in guidance, "remote instruction" means a method of instruction where teachers and staff facilitate learning for students through digital and non-digital strategies while students are in a location other than the school – likely from home – and where students and instructors are not physically present together in a traditional in-person setting, such as a classroom.***

Each district has 20 days of temporary remote instruction, between now and December 31, 2021, that can be assigned to individual schools, grades, classrooms or student groups. These 20 days are cumulative for the entire district so it doesn't work in favor of our larger districts or districts that have multiple buildings/locations. Students coded "TRI" must continue to receive daily instruction remotely. This does not have to be 100% synchronous instruction but should include interaction with a teacher. Pursuant to KRS 158.060(3), the district must provide at least the equivalent of six hours of daily instruction.

**3. SB1 passed last week with a new limited use provision for Temporary Remote Instruction (TRI). Has your district already connected education technology and digital learning strategies to your continuation of learning plans (similar to NTI and students quarantined receiving services)?**

58 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%
Yes	43	74%
Not quite yet	13	22%
We do not plan to leverage this new option/tool	2	3%

This is very positive and we have a large % of our responding districts that do have a plan for continuation of learning. More than likely, the ones who do not have a plan are larger districts that won't see a large impact from the 20 cumulative days of temporary remote instruction.

We went ahead and viewed the following question posed through GoSoapBox before moving on to our next topic:



We posed this question to get a feel for how we need to plan for upcoming activities and events. While this can change, right now it appears that the majority of districts responding are able to receive approval to travel.

**(12:37) KY K-12 EdTech Funding Updates** - In the close to thirty years of the KETS program, this is the closest we have come to have funding equal to our identified educational technology need. A large part of that can be contributed to the federal funds that have been allocated as a result of the pandemic with these being temporary; however, there is currently a wide variety of funds available from now until September 2024:

- KY Board of Education/School Facilities Construction Commission – We go before two entities to review our funding structure as part of the KETS Offers of Assistance that go to our school districts.
  - On August 5<sup>th</sup>, the KBE approved the disbursement of our \$15.M in KETS funding. As part of that, we shared the KY K-12 education technology need of \$366M in SY2021-SY2022, the \$356M in funding sources to address those needs and the KETS Offers of Assistance for this school year. We also spent

time sharing where we have been and where we are going over the next 18 to 24 months and use the various data collections that you help us collect.

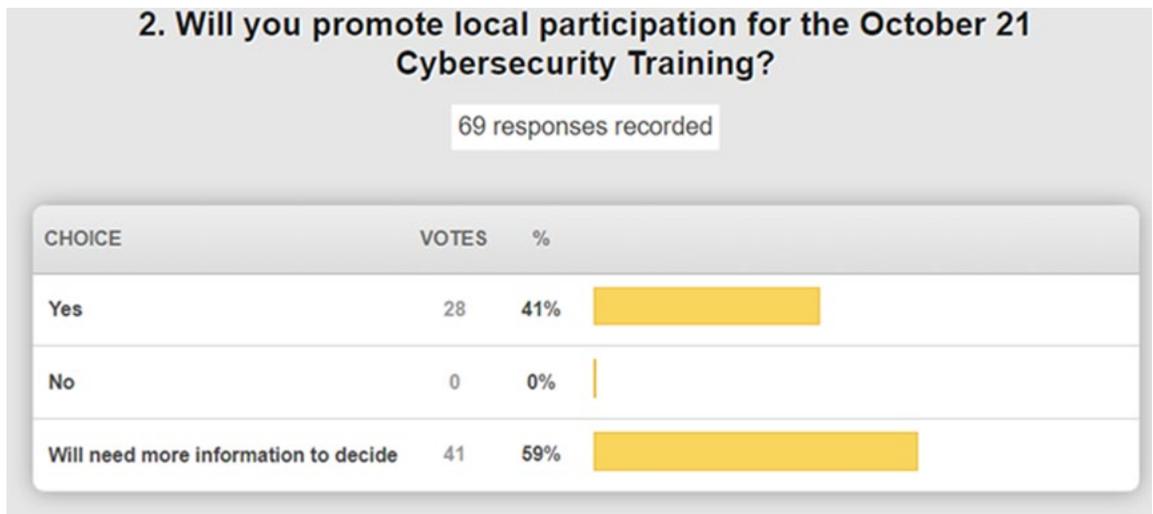
- On September 1<sup>st</sup>, we presented these same materials to the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC). The SFCC has been an outstanding partner with us over the years and they oversee the disbursement of the funds going to the school districts. One of the smartest things we put into place was allowing the KETS offers going out to school districts the ability to span fiscal years; however, we've never had a district let their KETS offer lapse and they are required to match those funds. This program has been a major success.
- KETS Offer of Assistance – Now that we've completed the previous two steps, we can now begin processing the 1<sup>st</sup> KETS offer. This first offer letter will be sent out in October at \$9/ADA with a target of \$21/ADA total for the year. We are considering whether we will do a 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> offer or just a second offer; this is primarily due to the number of steps and processes that are necessary. The overall management of the KETS offers will be undergoing some revision to facilitate this process and provide some additional resources. Initially, the notification letter regarding the offer will be coming from OET versus the SFCC; we anticipate this will come from Mike Leadingham. OET will also take on verification that the district has met all the requirements to receive their offer while the SFCC will continue to manage the transfer and verification of the funds. Mike will send out further clarification and details through the field staff prior to the first offer being made.
- Additional Budget Request (ABR) - While this is the most money we have ever had to go toward our unmet need, the concern is what will happen when the temporary federal funding expires. There are so many positive things going on, but we still need to address the significant cuts to the program since 2008 and address the cost of living adjustments during that time. We presented this concern and our ABR to both the KBE and the SFCC and we will do our best at bat to get this as a legislative priority in the upcoming budget discussions.
- \$7.1B in Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF) - There are \$7.1B ECF funds available through ARP ESSER. These funds are primarily to purchase computers for those students who do not already have one and to provide last mile connectivity beyond the school campus. Kentucky applied for \$54M in the first application window that has since closed with \$52.3M of that being from our 171 public schools. We have been able to get access to the applications within the EPIC portal and Mike shared the categories that 86 of our school districts utilized in filing for a portion of the ECF funds--\$41M was for devices and \$11M was for connectivity. There will be a 15-day, second window to apply that begins September 28 and expires October 13.
- Education Superhighway Tool - <https://www.educationsuperhighway.org/emergency-connectivity-fund/>. This tool is a little bit different from others—it provides more detail, upon request and by address, of whether a telecommunication provider can/does provide coverage for that address.
- \$3.2B Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program - There are \$3.2B in funds available for eligible parents to help pay for Internet access. One of the main deterrents is the ongoing monthly cost and the \$3.2B can assist with that. The schools are not required to do anything to sign-up or fulfill any requirements; this one falls solely on the parents to complete the application process and verify their eligibility.

**(40:14) Cybersecurity Update** - It is estimated that there will be 86% more attempted cyber attacks on K-12 school systems over the next 12 months. This is primarily due to so much money being available to K-12 through the federal assistance funds (e.g., CARES, ECF, etc.). These attacks are coming from all angles but have centered around phishing emails, ransomware attacks and data attacks. Ransomware attacks accounted for 57% of the cyberattacks in K-12 last year. The education arena is considered a soft target for these targets because educators and staff always do their best to be very helpful and this lends itself to a higher vulnerability. Because of this, we must return to the basics of cyber security. Bob Hackworth shared the following links with us:

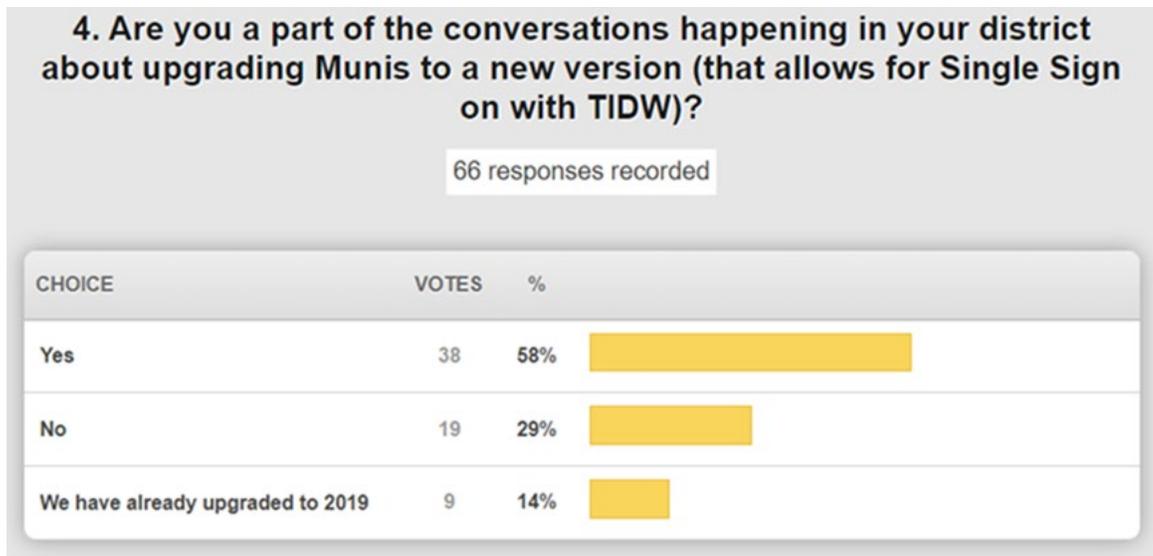
- [Cyber incidents against K-12 schools expected to rise by 86% \(edscoop.com\)](https://www.edscop.com/) - Cyber incidents against K-12 schools expected to rise by 86%; While threats against school districts continue, thousands have joined the MS-ISAC to get intelligence and security services.

- [Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center \(MS-ISAC\)](#) - The MS-ISAC® is the focal point for cyber threat prevention, protection, response and recovery for U.S. State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal (SLTT) governments.
- [Center for Internet Security](#) - CIS is a forward-thinking nonprofit that harnesses the power of a global IT community to safeguard public and private organizations against cyber threats.

DeDe joined the discussion and introduced Steven Hernandez who presented a session at the 2019 KySTE conference. A national leader and subject matter expert in cybersecurity, we've invited him back to provide some Cybersecurity awareness training and best practices. This training is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> at 2 p.m. EST. This session will be recorded for those who have a conflict and are not able to join. Registration is open for the Oct. 21 Ky. Cybersecurity training. Please feel free to share this link with other school and district staff: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KY\\_Cybersecurity\\_2021](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KY_Cybersecurity_2021).



There is no “silver bullet” to overcome this anticipated jump in cyber attacks, but by getting back to the basics and educating our staff members, we can raise awareness and preparedness. One thing we can do is implement Multi-Factor Authentication or MFA; this has gone from a nice to have thing to a necessity for many organizations and industries. MUNIS, our financial management system, is one system where we are moving to MFA. In order to complete this for all districts, it does require moving to a newer version of the software system. We posed the following question and strongly encourage our district edtech leaders to be a part of these conversations:



While each district makes decisions on some cybersecurity preventions and measures, we are looking at some baseline security initiatives for all of KY K-12 and we continue to share and learn from each other on how to best protect our KY K-12 environment. A few responses from the discussion question were shared:

### 1. Beyond information on the Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency website, tell us about efforts in your area to promote cybersecurity

The Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency website is: <https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month>

#### Replies

We have formally adopted the NIST CSF and addressing the various domains relevant to us. We are rolling out MFA across the district and instituted an annual security awareness training for all staff. We have implemented several systems to aid in the framework compliance, like operational inventory device management, and instituted rigorous third-party risk management for software purchases

Security awareness training and simulated phishing; adoption and continuous review of the CIS Top-18 (formerly top-20); MFA for all staff; cloud monitoring through a SEIM; iBoss reporting; conditional access; dynamic data encryption of sensitive information (data classification); Security+ certification for tech staff; MDM device management; automatic user risk assessment based on IoC; ransomware-resilient backup strategy; restriction of IoT devices per policy; implementing Zero-Trust framework; participation in information and threat sharing networks; DLP policies; cloud and AI driven security analytics.

### (51:03) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:

- New Equity Dashboards in Infinite Campus – soft launch late this month – full launch mid-October.
- School Report Card – This is a big week for School Report Card!
  - Final review period now – Data cannot be altered; superintendent messages can still be entered and are optional.
  - September 27 is District Embargo
  - September 28 is Media Embargo
  - September 29 is Public release of School Report Card
- Civil Rights Data Collection – Phase One (registration) - Oct. 4-Nov. 5
  - Each district must provide/verify their district profile information, including contact personnel and school identification. The superintendent or his/her designee must complete the requested profile survey.
  - KDE will again assist districts with the CRDC data preparation and load for the 2020-2021 school year. Visit the [KDE CRDC webpage](#) for current information. It will open in December for data population.
- Plan now for Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2021 activities in your district. Visit the [Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency website](#) to learn more about the campaign and for resources to help organizations to engage in the effort. Watch for more details about the Oct. 21 online cybersecurity training that will be hosted by KDE and feature a U.S. Department of Education cybersecurity specialist. The event will be open to state and local education agency staff. #BeCyberSmart
- Upcoming Infinite Campus training opportunities available on the [KSYS Training webpage](#).
  - Sep. 21, 28 or 30 – Infinite Campus User Group meetings (virtual)
  - Oct. 11-12 – Mastering Campus, Online
  - Oct. 12-14 – Infinite Campus Mastering Campus Database II, Online
  - Oct. 21 – Cybersecurity (more details will be announced)
  - Oct. 25, 26, Dec. 20, 21 – Infinite Campus Introduction to SQL
  - Nov. 9-11 – Infinite Campus Mastering Campus Database I, Online
  - Nov. 4-5 – Ky. Interchange, Omni Louisville Hotel
  - Nov. 15-19 – Virtual National Training Week, \$499 per district

- Jan. 14 – KSIS Infinite Campus (Ky. specific) mid-year
- KSIS Update:
  - ESSER Funding for Campus Learning, On-Line Registration and enhancements to Early Warning/Data Viz around learning loss.
  - New – Temporary Remote Instruction (TRI) exempt attendance code for tracking 20 additional days allowed for by Senate Bill 1. Students in schools, grades, classrooms and student groups that are moved to remote instruction will be given this attendance code. Districts will be able to use this code for 20 days before the end of 2021.
- DeDe and David were able to spend some time with the Commissioner of Education, Jason Glass, and present/discuss the KDE Data Governance structure. This went very well and Jason is very supportive of our data quality and data governance practices.

**(58:54) KY K-12 EdTech Data Reports Due (Reminder/Refresher) –**

- MUNIS Technology Activity Report (TAR) - EdTech funds spent last school year by districts is obtained through the MUNIS technology activity report (TAR) by late September each year. This is a major plus of having all districts using the same financial management program. We still have several reports outstanding, so please ensure you have communicated with your field staff regarding the TAR.
- KY K-12 Digital Readiness Report - We use this information in a variety of documents and it helps build our KETS Infographic. These were due September 15<sup>th</sup> and we look forward to pulling all that data together and seeing what the latest trends are telling us. While we rely heavily on these data points, we hope that districts will also utilize it comparatively to target school and district technology goals. There are a handful of districts that still need to submit these data and the field staff are communicating with them.

**(1:01:36) KY K-12 Technology Enabled Initiatives Update -**

- Free Zoom Client Issue – There was an issue where one Zoom client took up the entire bandwidth. An informational email went out last week, but it does boil down to finding the workstation using the free Zoom client.
- Lightspeed Relay Implementation – This effort is complete; we were able to do this quickly since we were implementing four/five districts per day.
- Bandwidth Upgrades – We have 75 upgrades planned for this fall.
- Router Replacements – We, in conjunction with our partners, are completing router replacements in 105 districts.
- Active Directory - Hardware refreshes are rolling along and KEN rack cleanup & adjustments are being completed at the same time. Chuck gave a shout out to all who were part of the planning and implementation with minimal disruption to the network and instructional time:
  - Phase 1 – 2 new servers in every district – 100% Complete
  - Phase 2 – Migration of Directory Services – 123 Districts Complete
  - Phase 3 – Movement of Security Services – 112 Districts Complete
  - Phases 4 & 5 – Vendor partner, Volta, will be making a visit to every district to sanitize, remove and dispose of the old servers and them completing the rack cleanup. In October/November, every district will also have a virtual server set up in Azure and they will be upgraded to Server 2019.

Marty took a moment as we closed to recognize the growth-based work that we are doing; we don't look at it as compliance. High quality instructional resources (HQIR) is a survey that will be going out over the next few weeks and participation is voluntary. We have identified an HQIR contact in each district, but we wanted to inform you since you may receive questions.

Thanks again for joining us today and we'll see you in October.