Summary of the November 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 November 16, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2021/11/edtech-webcast-november-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.

(3:54) Kentucky Society for Technology in Education (KySTE) Fall Event Reminder - Mary Ann Rankin joined us this morning to give a plug for the upcoming fall event. Registration is now closed and the 400 attendee limit was met! There is a packed agenda for all three strands on Friday, November 19th, and this is just a precursor to the upcoming KySTE Spring event. We value our relationship and partnership with KySTE and always look forward to attending and promoting this event. High fives to all the KySTE Board for the great service and all the extra time they devote for Kentucky's kids.

(9:20) November 9th Letter from Marshall Butler, CEO of Volta – David shared a letter he received celebrating the 25th anniversary of DMD Data Systems. They have been a long time vendor partner and they employ many former STLP students. Dave Sevigny and DMD/Volta has been a great KETS partner over the years. While cloud-based computing is now commonplace, it wasn't a decade ago when KDE was doing this on a very large scale. DMD sold the fileservers used for every district's financial management system and as we made the transition to the cloud, CEO Dave Sevigny and DMD/Volta supported this move regardless of the major negative financial impact to their company. They could have whipped up uncertainly and anxiety with districts about moving to the cloud but they refrained. They could have created angst of districts toward KDE but they didn't. They could have made it really hard on KDE but they were focused on what was best (i.e., cloud based) for districts in the long term and these are the kinds of vendor partners that made KETS so successful.

(18:11) Bowling Green Independent Schools (with Supt. Gary Fields and CIO Will King): Our special guests this month providing a district perspective throughout our agenda was the Bowling Green Independent school district. Bowling Green is a district all about relationships. They have approximately 4200 students with 5 elementary schools, a 6-8 middle school, a high school and an alternative education school. They have a unique demographic for Kentucky with 63% free/reduced lunch, they are a majority minority district, and they have 753 students receiving ELL services. They have 15+ languages spoken within their district. They have a new high school under construction and everyone is very excited about this new facility.

Supt. Gary Fields said there has been silver linings to the pandemic period and it accelerated their move to a 1:1 environment. The district employs 630 staff with every classroom having the same technology and this leads to less time dealing with service/usage issues and teachers continue to improve the delivery and incorporation of remote instruction.

Will King joined the conversation and shared the three main areas of focus:

1. Customer Service – Focusing on the end-user experience and they have expanded the education technology team.
2. Standardization of Tech District-Wide – Equitable access. Every student has an up-to-date Chromebook while every teacher has a touch screen Chromebook with a docking station and secondary monitor. Classrooms are amazing! All repairs are done in-house by junior high and high school help desk students.
3. Teacher Coaching – Teach to Transform – Teachers apply for a one-year fellowship and one teacher from each school is selected and attends one day per month training. The rest of the month the DLC goes out and spends one on one time with the fellowship members. This builds capacity and has been a big help across the district.

Will gave a shout out to Bruce Lindsey, Ben Maynard and Laura Raganas for all their help and they truly appreciate OET's assistance in all areas of support and assistance. He issued an invite to come and see the new high school and to attend the 12th Teach Me Kentucky edtech conference in July 2022. The move to this new building will provide storage, staging and the need to reevaluate the creation/use of labs. The new facility will have lots of common area spaces and a large interior courtyard that will add a large, outdoor classroom space.

(36:32) KY Education Summit Reflection - Please reference the following links to access these resources:
- Executive Summary - [United we Learn: Hearing Kentucky's Voices on the Future of Education Executive Summary](#),
- Full Coverage of the Summit - [Kentucky Education Summit | KDE MEDIA PORTAL](#), and
- Highlight Video - https://education.ket.org/news/watch-highlights-of-the-kentucky-education-summit-2021/ .

The Kentucky Education Summit was held on Nov. 1-2 at the Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville. KETS was originated with the implementation of KERA 30 years ago, but we always want to review, revise and reflect on what we've done well and where things can improve. Technology plays a key role in many areas presented/discussed at the summit. The students played a large role in the summit and their involvement and leadership was really cool. We encourage you to review this report and view the highlights of the summit; this work will guide KDE's efforts as we move forward.

(40:04) IC Interchange Reflection – The Infinite Campus (IC) Interchange was held on Nov. 3-4 in Louisville at the Omni Hotel. There were over 550 registrants and this was an all-time high for this conference. IC provided many good sessions and covered new functionality to the system. It was nice that it followed the education summit and allowed for those connections to be made. Within the last release, IC added survey functionality which allows for the thriving index to be used within the schools. This index provides for school climate and student check in features. Campus Learning functionality has been expanded as well. The sessions were very well done but the discussions and personal interactions are always a plus of having an in-person event.
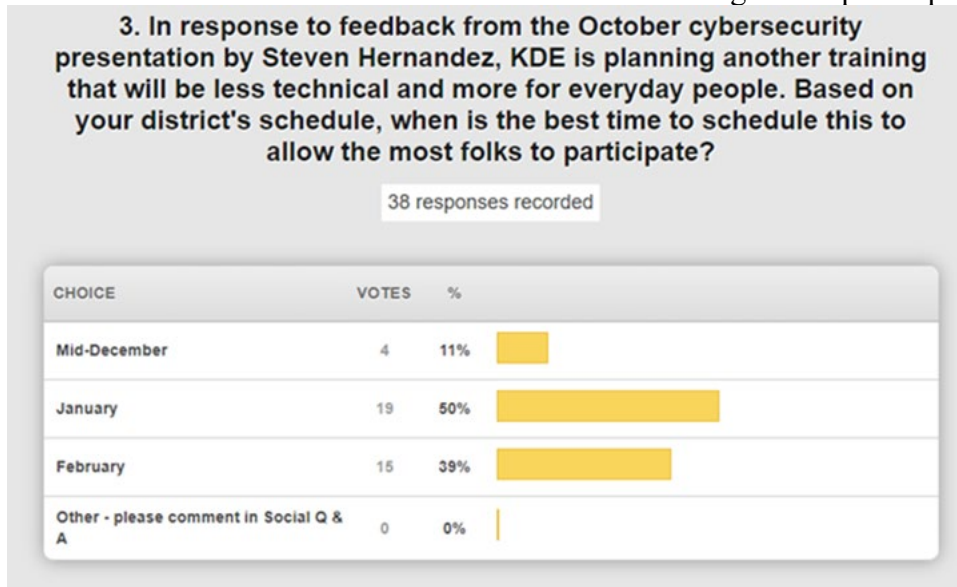
January 14th is the mid-year training date; if there are topics you want to ensure are covered, please reach out and let us know so that this event can meet your needs.

Supt. Fields shared they had two district personnel in attendance and they had a very positive experience at the conference; it was well worth their time. Finding staff that have IC experience is difficult right now and having someone with that knowledge/experience is crucial. A survey went out today from IC and we encourage you to respond as well as providing us with any additional feedback or recommendations.

(46:31) KY K-12 Data Privacy & Security Presentations Reflection – We had a recent cybersecurity training on October 21st that may be viewed on our media portal at [KY Cybersecurity Training | KDE MEDIA](#)

. We also had an internal training for our KDE staff on Data Privacy. There was excellent participation and we plan to make some minor edits and make it available to our districts.

Just under 500 folks attended the KY Cybersecurity presentation with about 20% wanting it less technical while 15 – 20% wanted a more technical presentation. We are working on the less technical version and we hope to have that available in the next few months. The following GoSoapBox question was reviewed:

3. In response to feedback from the October cybersecurity presentation by Steven Hernandez, KDE is planning another training that will be less technical and more for everyday people. Based on your district's schedule, when is the best time to schedule this to allow the most folks to participate?

38 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Mid-December	4	11%	
January	19	50%	
February	15	39%	
Other - please comment in Social Q & A	0	0%	

Kentucky's Homeland Security Advisor, Colin Glover, wants to be a resource for our school districts. We hope all these presentations and resources will take some of the scary out of security, but cybercriminals do not take time off.

David spoke with Dell's Michael Dell this past week and he shared that 10 years ago everyone thought the government sector had a much more stringent security model, but the private sector has had to move toward that same model because of the increased efforts and attacks of cybercriminals. We are very fortunate to have Robert Hackworth dedicated to security for KY K-12. We will work hard to bring in some high-level state and national leaders to present during these upcoming training sessions.

The table stakes for security have greatly changed over the last 20 years and the minimum level of security practices continually changed over time. We want to be the model for security and this means we must continue to discuss and implement new/improved security practices.

(59:25) NTI Study Results – On November 15, the Office of Education Accountability presented to the Education, Assessment & Accountability Review Subcommittee with their findings from the NTI study.
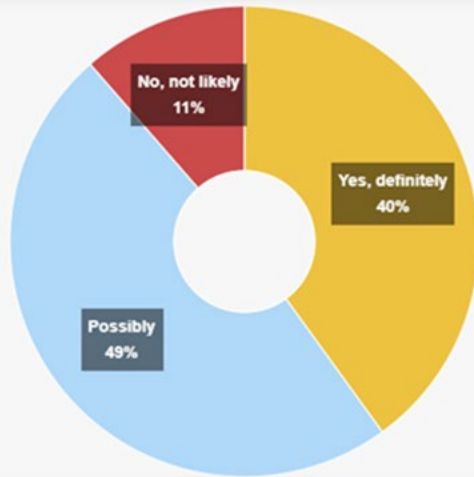
The full study has been released as ***#474_U From Snow-Bound Pilot to Statewide Implementation: Lessons Learned from Kentucky's Nontraditional (Remote) Instruction Program, 2012-2021***; the study can be downloaded and/or reviewed at https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/lrc/publications/research_reports.html . You can view the full presentation made before the Subcommittee at Education Assessment & Accountability Review Subcommittee (11-15-21) - YouTube

The study speaks to the use of NTI pre-Covid and then with Covid; it highlights some of the good things we have done during the pandemic. It was noted that NTI was not envisioned or intended to be used year round and the report details the pluses and minuses of using NTI on an extended basis. There is some good information in this report and they frame up their conclusions and recommendations. Going forward, NTI will continue to be one of the items in the toolbox. NTI was originally used for snow days, but was also available to use for things such as flu outbreaks, etc. The pandemic resulted in an expanded use of NTI to allow for the pivot to remote

instruction. The one thing that was not included is that 100% of our schools are connected and have a high quality service. It also didn't include some of our most recent digital readiness data, but it does celebrate the major advancements made across the state in leveraging education technologies and digital learning. Most of the recommendations directly touch education technology.

5. Will your district be interested in reviewing the most recent Office of Education Accountability (OEA) study on NTI?
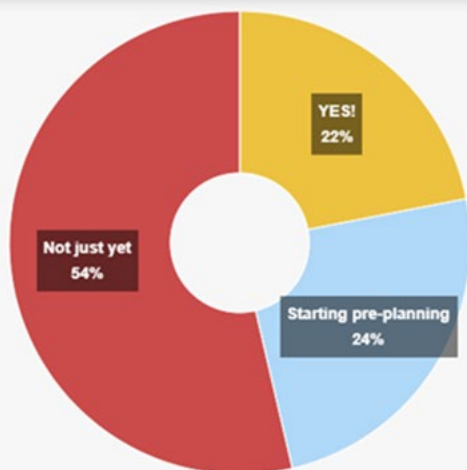
35 responses recorded

- No, not likely 11%
- Yes, definitely 40%
- Possibly 49%

(1:06:56) STLP Regionals Update STLP21 Regionals Info (google.com) – We reached the deadline for registration for the upcoming STLP Regionals. This year, Regionals will be virtual and utilizing video conference technology to connect project teams with live judges. We are excited to have over 800 entries and things are looking great for our nine regional competitions. Regionals week will be December 6 – December 10. After regionals, there is still Digital Product Online Judging (DPOJ) with entries due in February.

Jeff was able to complete a walk-through of the newly renovated Central Bank Center where we will hold our 2022 STLP State Championship. It is world class and we are very excited to have this partnership with Rupp Arena; it will be a game changer! Think BIG!! Now is the time to start planning for your STLPs to attend.

4. Have you begun planning for bringing STLPs in your district to State on April 20, 2022?
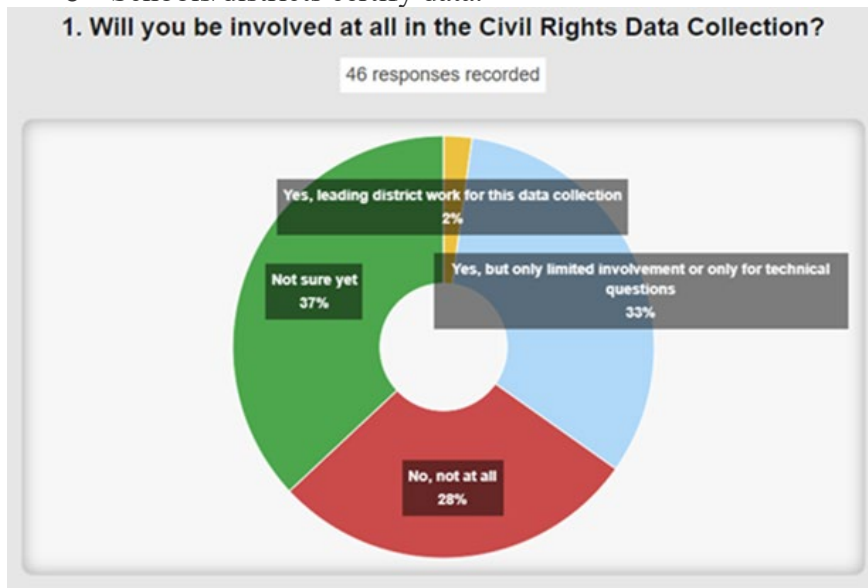
41 responses recorded

- YES! 22%
- Starting pre-planning 24%
- Not just yet 54%

(1:14:38) Active Directory (AD) Update – Chuck share that we are wrapping up our 2021 initiatives and preparing for our 2022 initiative. All of our districts have been amazing to work with and right now we are in the middle of converting all of the domain controllers set up in Azure (aka D3's); 116 of those have been completed. In the next few weeks we'll be kicking off the final physical phase of the initiative which is the sanitization, removal and disposal of the old active directory hardware as well as some minor cleanup of our KEN racks that are in each district. Volta will be our KETS partner arriving on-site to handle this last phase; it will not be a service-impacting effort. The last part of this process will be securing the licensing for Windows Server 2019 client access licenses and we'll be purchasing these as a subset of a much larger licensing "pack" focusing on identity security and threat visibility. We've done well with perimeter and endpoint security, but we must begin focusing on identity security to ensure end users have a secure experience. This is especially true for those users that work with and have access to critical and sensitive information.
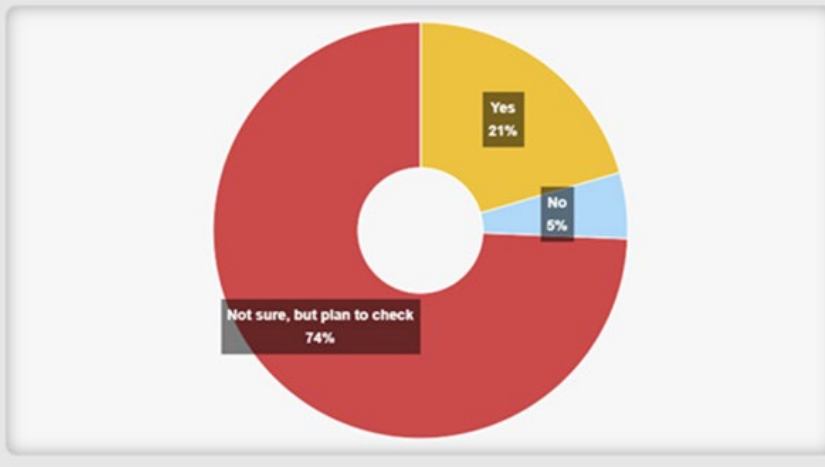
(1:20:52) Other Items to Note –
- We plan to use the "Teams Webinar" feature for a future KY K-12 CIO/EdTech leader monthly get-together and test/review the functionality of this Microsoft Teams meeting format.
- Annual feedback from all 171 districts (aka, Top 5) is due on December 17th. Your feedback really does drive our work and this tool was officially launched directly after the webcast.
- Civil Rights Data Collection -
  - Phase 1, registration window is closed and all Kentucky LEA's completed registration on time.
  - Phase 2, (Dec. 13, 2021- Feb. 28, 2022)
    - o KDE prepopulates available data.
    - o Schools/districts review KDE populated data.
    - o School/districts enter additional district and school data.
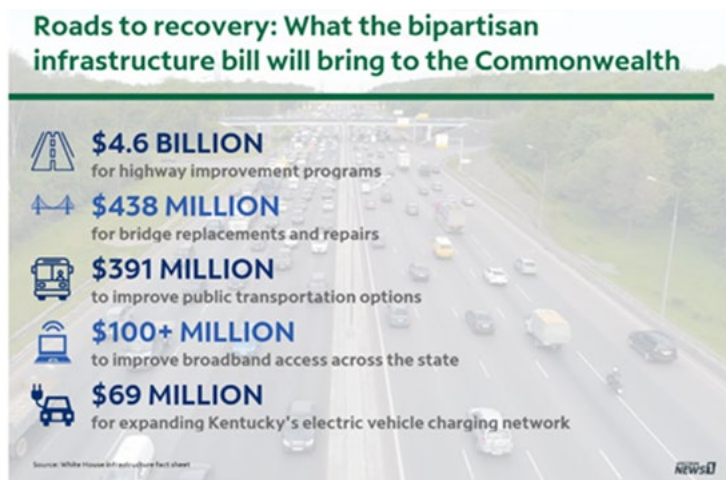   - o Schools/districts certify data.

- [College-Going Initiative](#) - Promote College Application Month with Campus Messaging – Status in your district via the following GoSoapBox question:

2. Has your district sent out College Application Month messages to upcoming 2022 graduates and families?

39 responses recorded

Yes 21%
No 5%
Not sure, but plan to check 74%

- School Report Card 2021-2022 – Collection tool is now closed for 2020-2021 reporting. Currently setting priorities for 2022 card; please send any suggestions for collection and reporting of data to kdedatarequest@education.ky.gov.
- KY K-12 Computer Science Plan – Dr. Sean Jackson launched the Kentucky K-12 Computer Science Comprehensive Plan document during today's webcast. This is the playbook on how we are going to work with all of KDE to ensure an emphasis on computer science going forward. We have had great buy-in from our stakeholders. It really does need to be a comprehensive, K-12 focus on instructional practices embedding computer science activities. This is bringing everyone to the table with a comprehensive focus; Sen. Givens has had this on his radar for a while and we are looking forward to sharing and implementing this plan.
- Stilwell Award – We would like your recommendation of a person or organization who went above and beyond the call of duty during the pandemic. Please send your recommendations and suggestions to David at David.couch@education.ky.gov.
- Federal Infrastructure funds -Below is a link and a graphic of the federal infrastructure funds that will be coming to Kentucky.
  - New Federal Infrastructure Law Moves Kentucky Forward - Kentucky Center for Economic Policy (kypolicy.org)
  -

Roads to recovery: What the bipartisan infrastructure bill will bring to the Commonwealth

$4.6 BILLION
for highway improvement programs

$438 MILLION
for bridge replacements and repairs

$391 MILLION
to improve public transportation options

$100+ MILLION
to improve broadband access across the state

$69 MILLION
for expanding Kentucky's electric vehicle charging network

Source: White House Infrastructure fact sheet

After the conclusion of today's webcast, those who chose to stay got bonus time with Bob Hackworth! We received a cybersecurity update. Cyber criminals are scary and not nice people. We don't want to spread FUD--

fear, uncertainty, and doubt; however, we do need to get the point across that it needs some increased focus. Upgrading Active Directory is a part of increased security. This is all still in concept phase; however, districts will be involved and have representation as you do for all our statewide implementations. We have the funds and we have the sponsorship. Our goal is to provide more than recommendations and ensure that each district has a baseline of resources. We hope to have tried and true products like MFA (Multi-Factor Authentication). How we do it and when we do it is all still in concept phase but we have no choice but to move forward in this direction for things like single sign-on and self-service password resets. We want every district to have the benefit of all these increased security features. We look forward to working with you on this.