Summary of the December 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 December 14, 2021 EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2021/12/edtech-webcast-december-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.

(2:30) Tornado and Disaster Recovery in Western KY – We began today's webcast hearing from our field staff and CIO's from those districts who are dealing with the devastation of the recent historic tornado event. Because the tornadoes and storms happened in the darkness and overnight hours, it really added to the chaos and the tragic loss of life. Immediately after the storms, we began reaching out to OET field staff and our CIO's/Edtech personnel in the districts and are thankful that a very high percentage are safe and suffered minimal personal damages and injury. Our next steps were assessing the KDE Internet hubs in school districts and then the schools themselves. So far, it appears that very few schools received significant structural damage. That is amazing given that this is the largest tornadic event since 1925. Initially, we had 37 district hubs that were down in some capacity (power and/or Internet hub) and we were down to 4 right before the webcast (Caldwell County, Dawson Springs, Graves County and Mayfield). We appreciate everyone who worked tirelessly to restore power and infrastructure issues from the district hub level all the way down to the individual school connectivity.

Joe Henderson, Superintendent of Mayfield Independent Schools, joined our virtual meeting and thanked everyone statewide regarding the outpouring of support. It has been overwhelming. Their middle school has some damage and the bus fleet as well as the maintenance and transportation department are gone. Please keep everyone in the community in your thoughts and prayers. School will come back at some time, but right now ensuring everyone is accounted for, staying warm, and has the essentials of life is the primary concern.

When asked how we can best help, Supt. Henderson shared the high school was serving as a refuge providing food and shelter. They didn't have electricity so they were using the generator power and had to find places for everyone to stay as night approached. Since that time, the gym has been set up as a distribution center for receiving/picking up donations. From a supply standpoint, they are almost overwhelmed and he is more concerned with two or three weeks from now; he asked that we check back with them after that time to see what the specific, ongoing needs might be.

A relief fund effort has been set up through the educational cooperative that will be used among all the districts in their area—Mayfield, Dawson Springs, Muhlenburg County. Mayfield also has a community and school relief fund set up at CFSB bank and these donation opportunities are on their social media pages. These websites and pages are being updated to reflect their daily, immediate needs. Family Resource Centers are also assisting families that have been displaced in finding shelter and providing funds to pay for housing until FEMA can come in. It is his concern that many displaced families will move to other communities and schools and not return.

Mayfield Ind - tornado relief URL
https://www.mayfield.kyschools.us/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=2662656&type=d&pREC_ID=2278349

Graves Co - tornado relief URL
https://www.graves.kyschools.us/Content2/tornadorelief
Graves County Schools Tornado Relief Information - Graves County Schools

Team Western KY Tornado Relief Fund (started by Gov Beshear)
https://secure.kentucky.gov/formservices/Finance/WKYRelief
Team Western Kentucky Tornado Relief Fund

Bruce Lindsey spoke about the human aspect. The technology staff in Bowling Green and Warren County were not with us today due to manning shelters in their areas. Both districts have an active Internet hub. Six of 28 schools in Warren County do not have Internet connectivity while they do have power. All but one school in Bowling Green is without Internet service and it's going to be a while before they are fully restored. Bruce told us that the tornadoes touched down in 18 or 19 counties within Regions 1 and 2 and occurring in two waves of tornadic activity.

(28:08) Woodford County (with Supt. Danny Adkins, CIO Bob Gibson, and CAO Ryan Asher) - Superintendent Danny Adkins is in his first year as Superintendent in Woodford County and he held the same position in Floyd County. He began by sharing Woodford County Schools support of all the districts affected by the devastating tornadoes and they plan to take their relief donations and supplies to the local educational cooperatives for disbursement.

Woodford County Schools has four elementary schools, one middle school and one high school They also have Safe Harbor, their alternative school, as well as WAVE, their virtual school. The district has just shy of 4,000 students – approximately 200 students less than normal due to homeschooling.
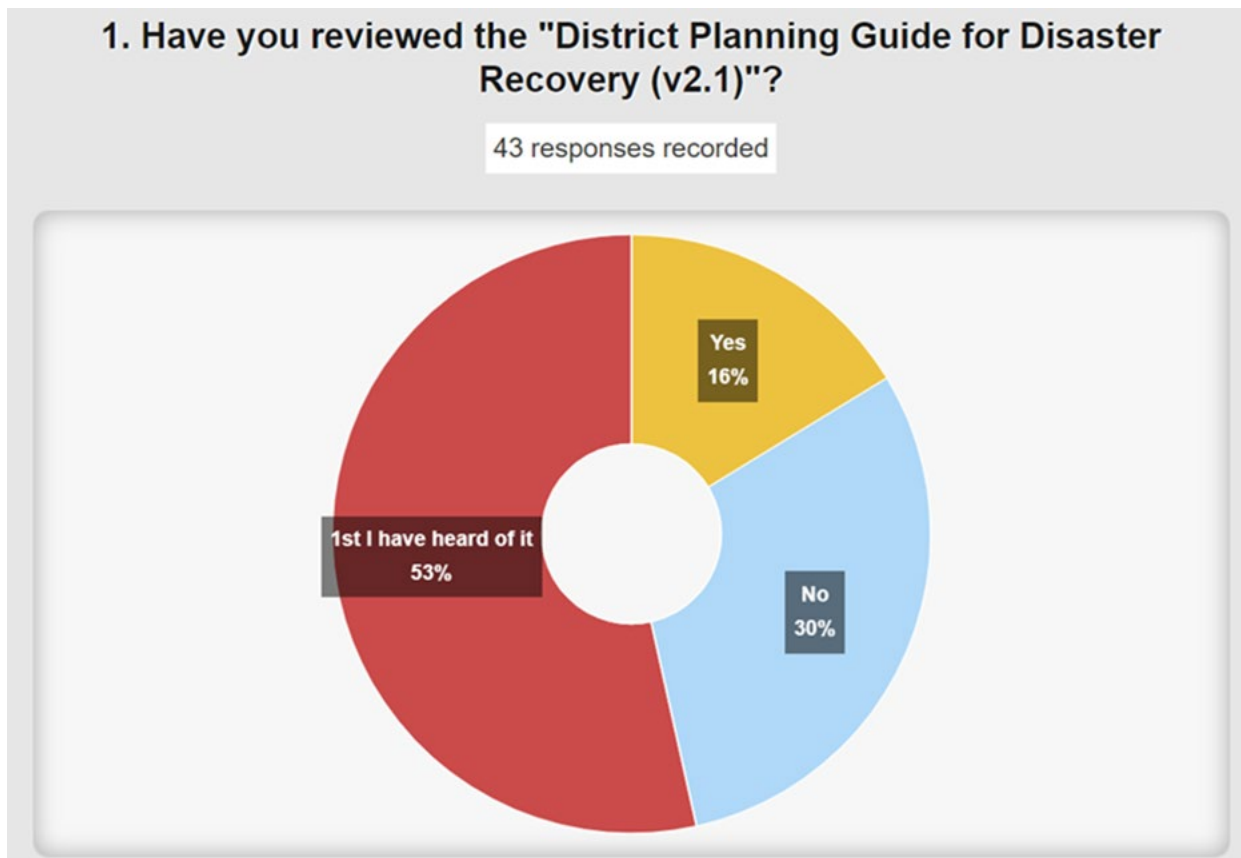
When Supt. Adkins came to Woodford County, the district was already on the path to having their 1:1 program and the pandemic has changed the look of education. He feels the district will need to have a virtual option moving forward and the 1:1 program is continuing to evolve as they work to add replacement cycles and increase the sustainability of the program. This has been made possible with the use of the ESSER, ARP, and ECF dollars.

Bob Gibson (CIO) has been in Woodford County for close to 9 years as CIO. Woodford County began their 1:1 implementation at the high school in 2011 with iPads. The push for next generation learners and engagement in the classroom for individualized instruction has always been the goal. Ryan Asher (CAO) has been with the district close to 14 years and has watched as the 1:1 program has made its way all the way down to the elementary school levels. The sustainability of a 1:1 program is an ongoing task and there are so many behind the scenes pieces to make it successful such as warranty/repair, technology fees, policies, etc. The device is only one piece of it; the infrastructure is also an integral part. The E-rate program has been a factor in their success through the WAN and network equipment; they work on a rotational basis to continually upgrade and update their infrastructure. Planning their equipment and network infrastructure upgrades through refresh cycles have really helped them plan and budget more effectively.

One major change throughout the pandemic was the inclusion and integration of the technology standards. He believes that many of the technology strides made during the pandemic will "stick"; they are vetting what was used most successfully to ensure its continued availability and professional development. Some things were utilized district-wide while other software was focused on specific grade bands.

(47:57) E-rate Program Update – A communication went out recently from our office regarding the district discount data and the Form 479 that addresses CIPA compliance. That communication also included several upcoming training dates/opportunities. Still to come is a communication asking for an updated Letter of Agency or LOA. This identifies that you are eligible to participate in our local consortium; we need this to secure our E-rate eligibility for our Internet services in the upcoming year. The due date for the LOA is January 14th. The field staff will be following up with districts and providing further direction on this as needed.

(51:50) Disaster Recovery – It is always challenging to talk about disaster recovery and right now is no different. It is important to have a plan for different types/levels of disastrous events, to gather vital information all in one place, and to make it readily available in case the worst happens. The district planning guide has recently been updated. It's not a template--it is a guide to help you determine all the vital information that your schools and district might need when different types and levels of a crisis have occurred. There is no one size fits all for a disaster recovery plan. It's important for it to fit your district's needs and make sense to whomever is called upon to take action if a crisis occurs. The link to access this guide is https://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/Pages/Data-Security.aspx. We encourage you to download this and begin discussing and collecting information to build your disaster recovery plan.

(57:24) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:
- CRDC – KDE is assisting districts with approximately 98% of their Civils Rights Data Collection.
    - CRDC Ad-hoc validation reports have been published to districts
    - Phase 2, (Dec. 13, 2021- Feb. 28, 2022)
        - KDE pre-populates available data.
        - Schools/districts review KDE populated data.
        - School/districts enter additional district and school data.
        - **Do not enter data until Dec. 22!**
        - Schools/districts certify data.

- o Keep in mind this is normally an every other year collection, but due to skipping last year we'll be doing this again next year as well.
- KSIS
  - o Effective Dec. 20, the Intervention tab will include the product name in the vendor materials fields and will be moved from the PLP module to Student Information | General.
  - o Continue to encourage districts to promote college going through Infinite Campus Messenger initiative. We are not seeing a lot of districts actively sending out these messages and we're trying to understand how to improve the communication to the families about this.
  - o New FAFSA tab is being created so that similar messaging can be done to follow up with students who have not yet completed FAFSA.
- Other - KSIS/Infinite Campus (Ky. specific) mid-year training on 1/14 via the KDE Media Portal; please let us know if there are specific items you'd like to be covered at this training. You can email us directly or put your responses in our discussion question.

(1:05:37) Microsoft Licensing Security Baseline Project Update - Robert Hackworth and Chuck Austin gave us an overview of what we initially termed the Licensing Project, but it's really so much more. This relates to several emails districts received recently regarding licensing; these licenses were purchased for districts using federal funds and is part of the security strengthening we have been working on for some time. As we move forward, we're putting an emphasis on identity security and also making it easier to authenticate and reach your instructional and office tools. You can expect more emails but we are doing our best to get ahead of them— some were sent automatically as payment was made. We also plan to meet with a core group of our districts to talk about how to best implement this and create more of a white glove service. This initiative is a move toward bridging together several of our recent implementations and our active directory upgrade project.

Bob also took a moment to mention some recent legislation signed by President Biden in November that involved some additional federal funds/grant funds. He'll be involved in some calls and will be able to share some additional information on these cybersecurity grants soon.

(1:13:19) Apache Server Update – A vulnerability has been found within our Apache Server service; it is the Log4j vulnerability. Protection was added to every district firewall on December 13, 2021that would flag and block that traffic. It doesn't alleviate the need to do some patching, but it does reduce the vulnerability. Phil Coleman sent out an email communication to our KY K-12 EdTech leaders that has additional direction and detail.

(1:15: 28) Communications coming out soon – Here is a quick list/preview of communications that will be coming out soon:
- KY K-12 Computer Science Plan & Annual Report – These are two separate items but will be discussed together.
- Cybersecurity Training Follow-up – A link has been sent out via our edtech leaders webcast summary notes and we encourage you to watch that or share that within your district.
- Finalized KY K-12 Digital Readiness Report – All districts are now populated and we'll share the link and some of the analysis.
- ATC inventory – For the districts that have ATCs, we are circling back now to ensure we have an accurate education technology inventory on an annual basis. Field staff will be communicating with you on this further.
- School Report Card (SRC) – We want to educate and highlight the three aspects of the SRC—1) Section helpful to parents/comparison 2) Infinite Campus portion for parents/students and 3) Section used primarily by Researchers/Media.
- Annual Feedback – We are receiving and reviewing the district and OET feedback that we require annually. We are not perfect, but we are always trying to get better. Your feedback helps us get better! We'll discuss this in greater detail after the submission window closes and leadership have had time to review responses.

We'll continue with this format for our district visits for the immediate future—David will be on-site without our OET media services staff. Occasionally there may be an OET leadership team member accompanying him. We'll remain flexible on this and revise as necessary due to weather conditions and pandemic protocols.

The work each of you has been able to accomplish for the past two years has been amazing, but we hope there is a small window for you to have some time off and spend time with loved ones over the holidays. For those who are working to help their communities, families and friend recover from the devasting tornadoes, please take care of yourself and continue to communicate with us on how we can best assist in these efforts. We appreciate all of you who have helped us navigate through the pandemic and worked tirelessly through all the challenges. Have a great holiday and we'll see you next year.