

Summary of the December 2022 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 13, 2022, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2022/12/edtech-webcast-december-132022/>.

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. Please remember that in addition to these webcasts being available on the KDE Media Portal, each month's webcast is accompanied by these written summaries. We encourage you to share the link and all or any portion of these summary notes with staff throughout your district who may find the information beneficial to them in their position.

(1:04) KETS Blast From the Past - David discovered some old videos from 1992 – 1993 and wanted to take us back in history. When we began this program in 1992, there was no Internet connectivity in our school districts. Our project put in the first and largest Internet connection at the time. During this time period, we used the Kentucky Educational Television (KET) studios in Lexington to present some of our KETS Updates. It was fun to go back and view these and we shared a few clips taken from some very special moments/events:

1. The first clip was Governor Brereton Jones and Education Secretary Sherri Jelsma announcing the KETS Program and implementation of the KETS network connections/information backbone. This was taped from Shelby County Schools who served as our pilot district.
2. The second clip was from a KETS Update on September 10th, 1993, from Heritage Elementary in Shelby County. David introduced the KETS Engineers we had at the time. Chuck is still with us and had only been with the KETS program for two weeks at the time of this taping.

When the Department of Education was revamped as a result of the passing of KERA, there were several programs created and KETS was considered the one that had the least likelihood of longevity. We are still here and still thriving. There were five tenants of that initial program:

1. Technology Integration
2. Existing Technology Usage
3. Best Technology Development
4. Educational Internal Networking
5. Technology Training

John Logan, who has been with KETS since the earliest days, has served in many roles with the Office of Education; but today he is our Chief Mischief Officer. John shared an artifact from the KETS archives—the pie in the face video from a KDE charitable campaign event from 2011. The department raffled tickets to have the opportunity to throw a pie in the face of someone from your office. Damon won the raffle for OET to throw a pie at both John Logan and David Couch. John took a regular pie and David's pie was "special"—filled with all manner of leftover and smelly foods. This was during the time period when Dr. Terry Holliday was our Commissioner.

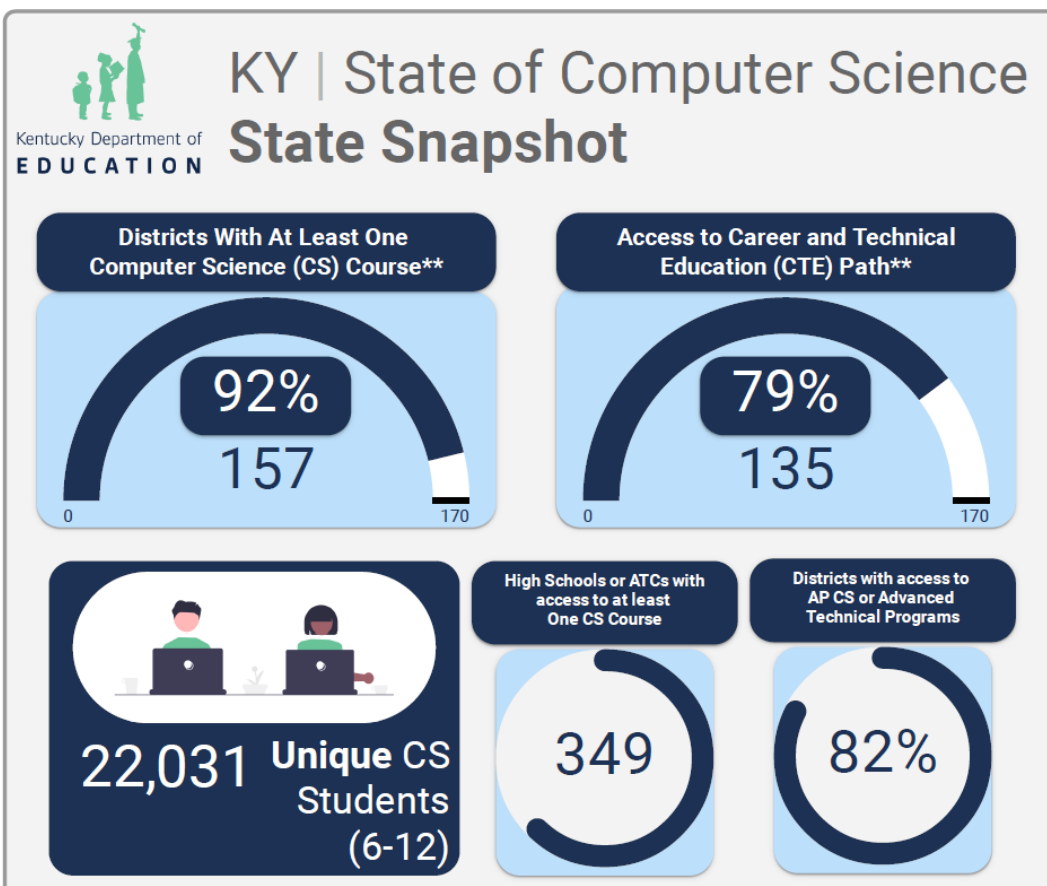
(27:46) 2022 Red Suspenders Day Celebration of KY K-12 EdTech - We began discussing and preparing the latest Stilwell recognition back in February and it has been a wonderful experience to both participate in and review all the recognition ceremonies. As the video was played, the associated field staff commented on the award ceremonies held in their region. If you do still have pictures or videos of awardees, please continue to send them in. The [Stilwell Award page](#) on our KDE website will be updated to include all of the awardees

along with these videos. We celebrate Red Suspender Day and Bill Stilwell as we look back at all the good things we've done over the years. Thank you so much for all that you do!



(47:59) Top 5 Feedback Reminder/Update – Your feedback is due Dec 15th from all KY K-2 districts and OET staff. This is the Top 5 things we did in calendar year 2022, Top 5 things we didn't do well or didn't get to that we should have in 2022 and Top 5 goals for 2023. We use your feedback in a variety of ways. These are read and evaluated to identify trends/priorities and then we compare it against our OET feedback and our KDE feedback. This helps in the development of our year-end evaluation, goals for the coming year and preparation for the CIO Summit.

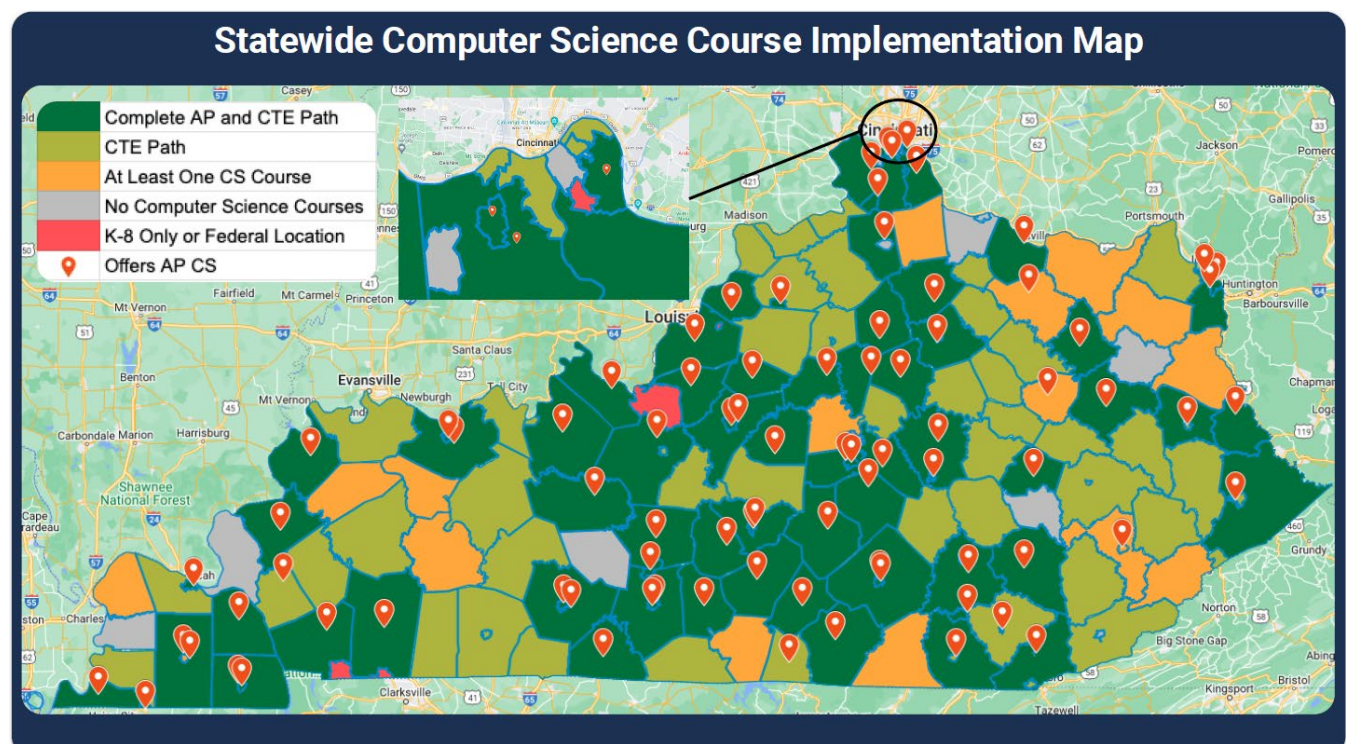
(49:51) Annual Comprehensive Computer Science Report Required by SB193 from 2020 - Since 2020, we are required to submit an annual report to the legislature regarding the state of computer science. Laura Raganas began this work with the IT Academy and then Sean Jackson joined us to carry on this work and develop a comprehensive K-12 computer science growth plan. Since 2018 we've been seeing approximately a 3% increase each year in the number of students receiving computer science instruction. Sean shared some highlights of the annual report.

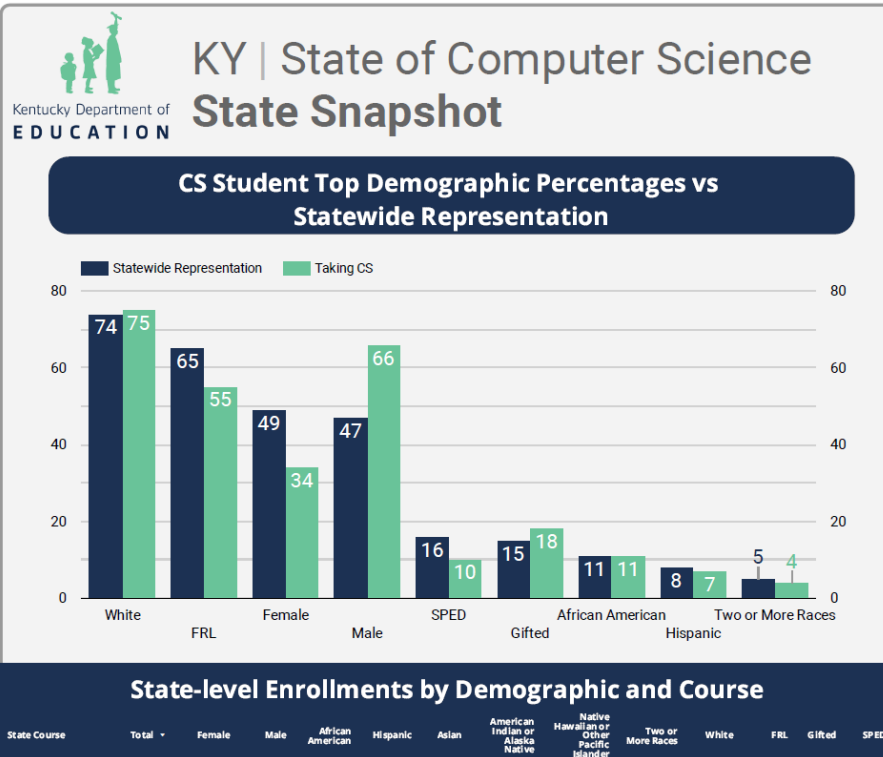


These statistics are a culmination of over 22,000 students in grades 6-12. Initially we met three of the nine requirements; however, now we have fulfilled all but two of the requirements of Code.org's 9 policies to make CS fundamental and we hope that our recent work and newly approved regulation help us get to the finish line.

Kentucky's Progress on Code.org's 9 Policies to Make CS Fundamental					
Establish rigorous K-12 computer science standards.	YES	Create programs at institutions of higher education to offer computer science to preservice teachers.	NO	Allow computer science to satisfy a core graduation requirement.	YES
Create a state plan for K-12 computer science.	YES	Implement clear certification pathways for computer science teachers.	YES	Require that all secondary schools offer computer science.	NO
Allocate funding for teacher professional learning and support.	YES	Establish dedicated computer science positions in state and local education agencies.	YES	Allow computer science to satisfy an admission requirement at institutions of higher education.	YES

We have continued to see growth and haven't reached a plateau yet. It is our goal to represent all demographics and we've done well in that effort. Code.org highlighted the work done by Kentucky in representing all the demographics.





We currently have 310 teachers teaching a computer science course with varying amounts of time teaching computer science related courses. The computer science Advance Kentucky helped us take their professional learning program for teachers along with EPSB to create a computer science code to show designation to teach computer science courses. We work collaboratively with other offices within KDE on the preparation of this report. There is a lot more detail and disaggregated data in the report and we hope you take some time to review at your convenience; the full report is available in our KETS Master Plan at <https://education.ky.gov/districts/tech/Documents/CSReport2022.pdf>.

1. By 2030, KYStats estimates a 12% increase in the number of Computer Science-related jobs present in the Commonwealth. Is your district actively working on adding or expanding CS offerings available to all your students?

47 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes, we are acting on this currently	17	36%	<div></div>
We are currently planning this action	13	28%	<div></div>
We are not acting or planning on this topic	7	15%	<div></div>
Not sure	10	21%	<div></div>

(1:06:44) Infinite Campus Interchange Conference Follow-up: Last Thursday and Friday, Infinite Campus sponsored the Interchange Conference. The conference registration maxed out at 600 participants. IC's founder, Charlie Kratsch, always gives the opening keynote and we greatly appreciate their partnership with Kentucky. He shared the systems that other states use and how most states don't have a single system. In Kentucky, our DOE staff and district staff do work together collaboratively; it's taken many years to build that

trust/relationship. IC does a nice job with this conference and our staff/district staff provided some excellent presentations for participants.

David met with Charlie after his keynote event and we have a new relationship between IC and Tyler Industries (MUNIS). Both have agreed to work together to integrate their products and that is a grand slam for us since both have been product standards in our KETS Program. There will also be two additional components within Infinite Campus – an instructional content provider and a major assessment provider. Not many states have a dedicated statewide information system like Kentucky – Nevada is another state having a standardized system and North Carolina is moving to a statewide approach.

(1:11:43) Follow-up on Lexington Herald's incorrect article on slow KY K-12 Internet access: About two months ago, the Lexington Herald ran an article that was very derogatory to our KY K-12 Internet service. We immediately began investigating the details and sources of this article since we were not contacted to verify or balance this information. We pride ourselves on being good stewards of taxpayer funds and continually monitor Internet usage to provide each district the necessary bandwidth. McClatchy Publishing and the Lexington Herald ran this article because they were desperate for content and we are disappointed they didn't perform fact-checking or follow-up.

In researching this, we found that Stacker Media wrote this article (no author) and they came up with the sensationalized headline. David spoke with a representative from Stacker Media and used an analogy to describe how we manage our bandwidth needs to avoid excessive spending. They pulled their data for the article from [Connect K-12](#); however, they didn't go to the Kentucky-specific page that shows how we are very efficient in how we approach our bandwidth cost/needs.

More About Connectivity in Kentucky

Since 1992, the Office of Education Technology (OET) within the Kentucky Department of Education has provided the Kentucky Education Technology Systems (KETS) network, which delivers enterprise level Internet access for all 172 public K-12 school districts, the Kentucky School for the Blind, and the Kentucky School for the Deaf. KETS provides a highly reliable and scalable network (99.99% uptime during school hours), equity in terms of bandwidth provided, and multiple layers of security to mitigate against various threats. Because of the reliability and scalability of the KETS network, OET is able to provide several statewide cloud-based services including a student information system, content filtering, and a single financial management system. Importantly, OET monitors district bandwidth utilization and increases capacity when an established threshold or need is surpassed. This ensures that each district has the bandwidth they need at any given time without expending resources on unused capacity. Connect K-12 recognizes and celebrates the efficient and reliable services provided by the Kentucky Department of Education to equitably deliver robust connectivity to districts throughout the state.

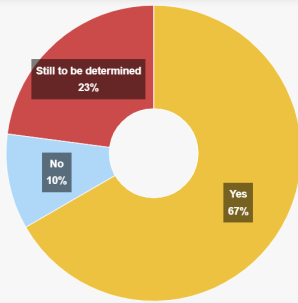
We won't see a retraction or an apology, but we have met with all parties and requested they approach us before running future KY K-12 articles on education technology so that we have the opportunity to balance their information and ensure their data is accurate.

(1:24:20) KY K-12 EdTech Contracts Status Awareness/E-rate/KETS Offers –

- KY K-12 RFP Update - We are in an active RFP procurement and this will affect our E-rate program.
- SEEK – This is the system that oversees district funding; this is a multi-faceted program with many functions.
- Connected User Experience – We are now working/planning on a procurement path for this project. We are capturing/reviewing district feedback on this.
- Other Areas of RFPs or procurement – We review our contracts and product standards on a regular basis and moving forward we may be discussing and seeking input on some upcoming work.
- The educator and teacher licensure system has been awarded and is being implemented.
- E-rate Application Season is here and we expect a lot of activity in the coming months. A few questions were posed to see where districts currently stand and what additional resources where they may need assistance:

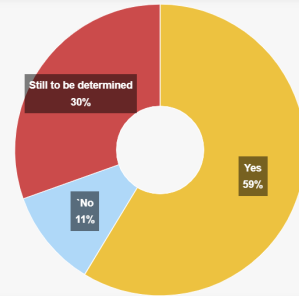
2. Will your district be participating in the KDE 470 training Wednesday, January 4, 2023 at 2:00 p.m.?

48 responses recorded



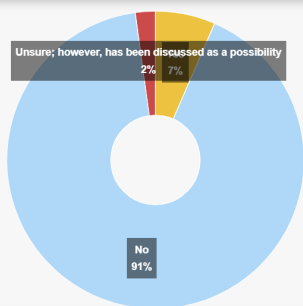
3. Will your district be participating in one of the following in-person Regional KDE 471 trainings: Region 1 – Jan 30th, Region 2 – Jan 31st, Region 4 – Jan 23rd, Region 6 – Jan 24th?

46 responses recorded



4. Does your district plan to submit a lease that has an upcoming E-rate filing implication to KDE review?

46 responses recorded



While this % is high, we want to specifically remind those planning to submit a lease that it must be done timely. The current turnaround time is 21 days. Your field staff can assist and guide you on this, but waiting until the last minute is putting you in jeopardy of not getting this approved with the filing window. If there are issues or incomplete paperwork, this could further delay the lease approval process.

- First KETS offer is complete and 2nd offer is underway.

Have a wonderful holiday and we'll see you next year!