

Summary of the August 2023 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 August 15, 2023, 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/2023/08/edtech-august-2023/>.

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.

(00:47) Back to School for School Year 2023-2024 – For most of you, summer break is over as the school year has either already begun or is about to begin. We hope you've had a good summer break and are ready to get started with the new school year.

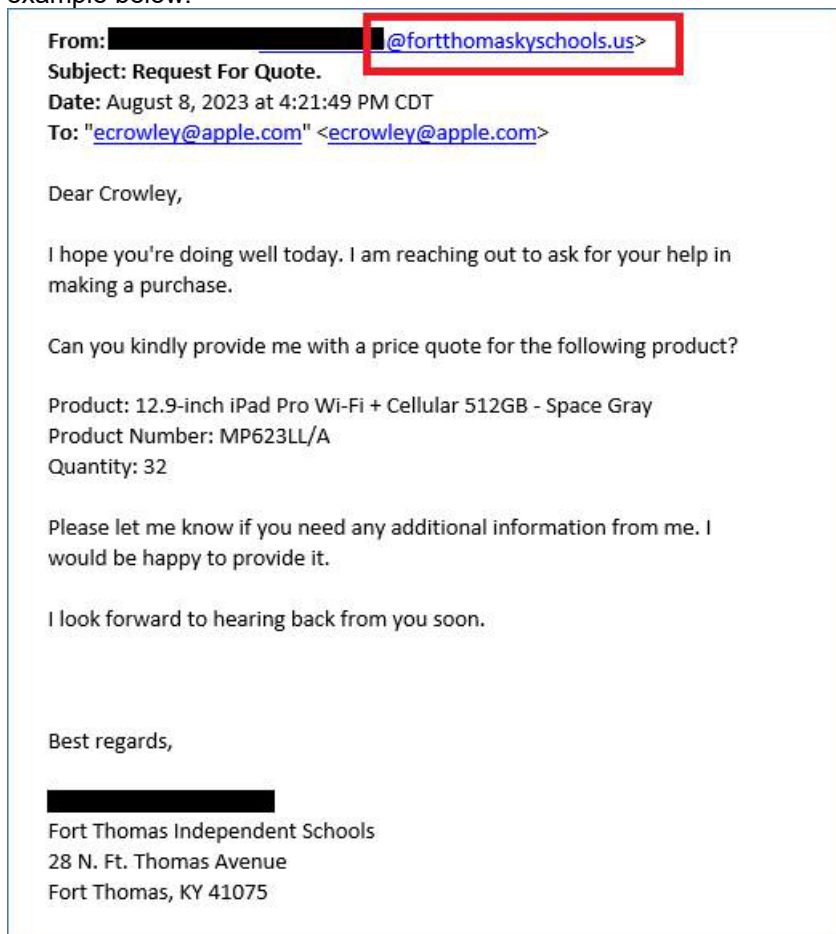
(01:08) Commissioner of Education Update - Commissioner Glass's last day as the Commissioner of Education will be September 31. The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) has a special meeting scheduled to discuss next steps. During this meeting they will discuss and decide on who will serve as the Interim Commissioner and how they will conduct their search for the new Commissioner of Education. During the last legislative session, legislation was passed which will require the selection of the KBE to receive Senate confirmation. We'll continue to provide updates on the search process for this position.

(02:41) Recent Cyberscam Attempt on KY K-12—Update and Next Steps – The following email was sent out by David Couch on August 14, 2023, related to this topic. We reviewed and discussed the email content below:

We will discuss this topic more during our August 2023 webcast for KY K-12 CIOs/EdTech leaders that starts at 10 am (EST) tomorrow morning. Until then, wanted you to be aware of a recent phishing attempt against a vendor that pulled 2 different KY K12 school districts into its attempt. That and the fact that the phish was unusually good is why we are taking the unusual step of sending this alert to all District CIOs and all of our vendor partners. While we always hope we don't see even more of these, experience says we should all try to get as prepared as possible.

1. Apple received a fraudulent email request (pasted below) to purchase 32 iPad Pros that looked as though it came from Fort Thomas Independent Schools. (By the way, we asked Ft. Thomas for permission before identifying them in this email). The request was formatted to look very closely like it came from an actual district. The district staff person was accurate and even the domain in the email is very close except a dot is missing from the domain. Look at the fake domain in the red box in the screen shot below and you will see it clearly. The cybercrook's goal was obviously to purchase the devices and leave the district with the bill.
2. Apple recognized that it wasn't a legitimate request (great job!) and notified the school district being impersonated (also great job!).
3. After some investigation at www.whois.com, the fraudulent domain was found to be registered in the name of an actual person, and here's where this gets very unusual. The name used to register the fake domain is that of a finance officer in a different KY school district along with the address of one the schools in that district – nothing to do with Fort Thomas but still in KY K12. A generic Gmail account was used in association with the finance officer's name.

4. In addition to the fake domain, the person behind the fraudulent email calls the Apple rep by her last name – “Crowley” which seems highly unusual for anyone in Kentucky to do. You can see this in the example below.



Recommendations for District CIOs:

- Make sure that folks in your district are keenly aware that they are targets both for phishing and for being impersonated. Also make sure they understand how to identify a phishing email. Some telltale clues are:
 - whether the sender's email address matches the sender's name;
 - whether the sender's email address is using a legitimate domain name (e.g., district.kyschools.us vs districtkyschools.us)
 - if the email tries to create a sense of urgency or panic,
 - if sender asks you to buy gift cards (dead giveaway)
 - if the email uses English in an unexpected manner
- Make sure your procurement folks know to question whenever they get an email or call from anyone trying to change key vendor information, especially where to send the checks. Never use questionable contact information when verifying emails or phone numbers
- If you have not already added a yellow “Caution Banner” or similar to your email so that your staff have an easy way to tell when they need to “raise their shields” just a little, I highly recommend it. It isn't perfect but can give just a little added awareness as to whether the sender is truly trusted and legitimate or not.
- Every KY K12 adult should have MFA on their KETS accounts/email addresses. I also encourage you to encourage everyone working in your district to add MFA to their personal accounts as well. Cyber criminals have researched us and where possible have connected us to our personal accounts.
- To check and see if there are any “lookalike” domains for your district run some WHOIS lookups on variations of your domain to see if any domains similar to your district but that you aren't aware of pop up.
 - www.whois.com and then start entering in potential domains that might be confused for your district's actual domain,
 - If a domain pops up that seems suspiciously close to your district (and isn't legitimately another district in a different state, for example) look for the “registrar” or the “registrar abuse contact email” and using the email provided or the registrar's website register a case with their fraud department.
 - Some security services check for lookalike domains as an included or separate service.

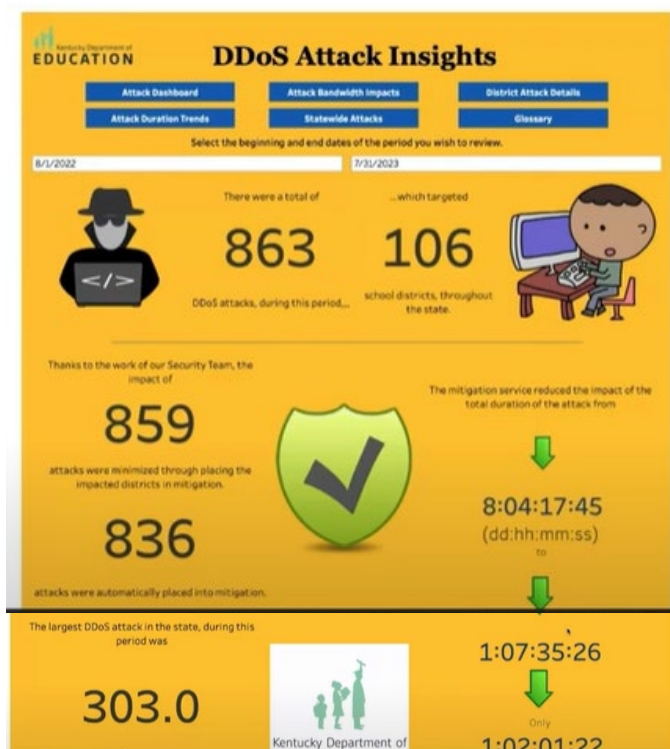
Recommendations for Edtech and Tech Vendors that provide products and services for KY K-12 organizations.

- Continue being vigilant.
- Make sure you know who you are working with and how to get in touch with them outside of using information from questionable emails and phone calls.
- Continue to share the phishing emails you receive with our KY K12 districts. It's a very helpful practice and much appreciated.

Take care.

Bob Hackworth joined in to share information about the recent phishing attempts. These recent attacks are being targeted to our vendors; however, it is using district staff names and emails to help in authenticity of the phish. He recommended doing the "Who is.." search to see if there are look-alike domains. The KETS user accounts now have MFA so that is huge, and we recommend that you also put this additional layer of security on each of your personal accounts. Also, the caution banner should be the first indicator that this hasn't come from an internal staff member. If you believe you received a phishing email, don't trust anything about it! Use the official site and contact information to attempt to verify the email content. Within KDE, we have a Technology Planning Committee (TPC) that meets monthly and take this type of information back to their offices within KDE. Please take time to share this information and steps to your administrative staff at the district office--especially the finance officer and anyone who deals with purchasing or communication.

This is the beginning of the school year, and we always experience an increase in DDoS attacks. We strive for 100% of these attacks to be mitigated; this reduces the duration of the attack and reduces the overall impact of the attack. They are getting smarter and recent attacks have been more sophisticated. We have the data for every school district and during the months of August – October, we do see a marked increase.



(23:08) KY K-12 Cybersecurity Annual Health Check Update/Reminder: This is a legislatively mandated requirement that is due to be completed annually no later than 31 August by all 171 districts and KDE the agency. This is a great opportunity to share with and update your local board of education. It's also a great way to advocate for additional security in areas where you have weaknesses or areas where you want your district to remain strong. We recommend you share these items with your local board members in a closed meeting environment. Some areas to focus on could be data systems, any data breaches, any security issues and recommendations of what you'd like to put in place in the next year. These are broad headings, and it doesn't have to be very lengthy. Please reach out to Bob Hackworth if you have any questions.

(28:57) KY K-12 Data Systems Update –

- **2022-2023 School Report Card** – Visit the [KSIS School Report Card Resources webpage](#) for the complete timeline, resource materials and communications.
 - Sep. 29 – End date for school-level data collection
 - Aug. 3-Sept. 29 – Review and approval period for non-accountability data review and approval; this is a longer review period this year.

2. What is your district's status on completion of the review/approval of School Report Card non-accountability data?

31 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
School and district data has been reviewed and approved	2	6%	<div></div>
Started and working through it now	11	35%	<div></div>
Preparing to start - organizing and planning the review	6	19%	<div></div>
Not involved, not sure	12	39%	<div></div>

- CTE data and some of the equity data is scheduled to roll out in early September.
- **2021-22 Civils Rights Data Collection (CRDC)** is scheduled to open in the Winter of 2023. For more information to help be prepared, go to the [CRDC Resource Center](#).
- **KSIS**
 - To avoid conflicts with back-to-school activities, no Infinite Campus outages are planned for August.
 - Districts need to update SQL queries to remove NOLOCK. Infinite Campus has published a [Frequently Asked Questions document](#) for more information on this topic.
 - Annual Infinite Campus subscription payments are due August 15. If you need a copy of your district's invoice, send a request to [KDE Data Services](#). A list of those who haven't paid yet will be sent out through the KETS field staff.

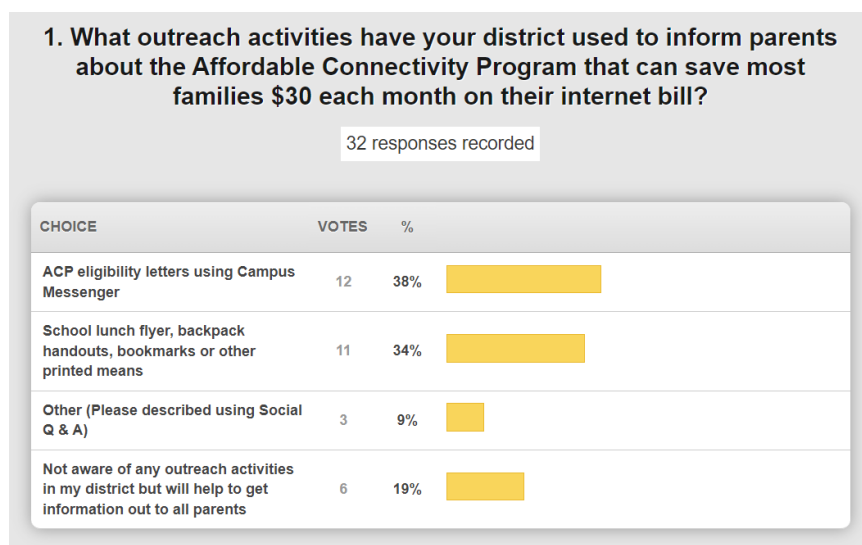
3. Has your district paid the 2022-2023 Infinite Campus subscription that is due August 15?

31 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	16	52%	<div></div>
No	0	0%	<div></div>
I do not know but will check	15	48%	<div></div>

- **Training Opportunities:**
 - The Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO), through its Privacy Technical Assistance Center (PTAC), will host a three-day virtual webinar series on student privacy and data security in August. Register for each day of the series below. All sessions are from 2-4 p.m. (ET)/1-3 p.m. (CT).
 - [Aug. 16 – FERPA 101 and FERPA 201](#), covers the basics of FERPA, including scenarios faced by schools and districts.
 - [Aug. 23 – Data Security and Data Breach Incident Response](#) provides training on current data security best practices for education data systems and leads participants through a simulated data breach.

- [Aug. 30 – Vetting Educational Technology and Transparency](#) explores the importance of and how online educational technology can be assessed for privacy protections and general FERPA compliance, followed by highlights from PTAC's research on study transparency.
- Jan. 24 – KSIS Infinite Campus Kentucky-specific mid-year training. For details and to register, visit the [KSIS Training webpage](#). Send requests for training session topics to [KDE Data Services](#).
- Prior training resources
 - KSIS Infinite Campus Kentucky-specific beginning-of-year training
 - Videos are available on the [KDE Media Portal July 2023 Archive Tab](#).
 - To request the presentation slides, send an email to [KDE Data Services](#).
 - EILA certificates have been sent to everyone who met EILA requirements. If you believe you should have received a certificate, send an email to [KDE Data Services](#)
- **Other Items to Note:**
 - 2022 graduates have through Aug. 30 to order eTranscripts at no cost.
 - At least 80% of Kentucky households with students enrolled in public schools are eligible for ACP benefits, including all students in schools participating in the Community Eligibility program for free- or reduced-price meals, those receiving assistance through SNAP, Medicaid, and more. Visit the [KDE ACP webpage](#) for information and resources to help promote outreach to families with eligible students.



We have made another jump and we are up to 45% participation in Kentucky. There are three states outpacing us. We'd like to see more districts making the eligibility letter available through Campus Messenger. We really pushed on this back in the Spring, but many elected to wait until school began this Fall. Please help us promote this so that parents and guardians are aware and have access to documentation they need to enroll.

- New on-line/virtual point of contact available in People Role Manager – encourage districts to set up district contacts.
- Student Data Privacy and Security:
 - The U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency's (CISA) released a [report on K-12 cybersecurity](#) earlier this year that includes a series of [recommendations](#) and [best practices](#) specific for local education agencies.
 - [For more information relevant to K-12 available on the U.S. CISA site, click here](#)

(45:15) Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Funding – Increased funding for the KETS program is a priority for the upcoming 2024 legislative session. The KY Board of Education (KBE) prioritized KETS funding during their August 3rd meeting. Randy Poe was very supportive, vocal and articulate of the KETS program. Steve Trimble and Lu Young were also very supportive of the KETS program funding. Lee Todd has a rich history of support for KETS and STLP.

We are working on the creation of a one-pager to be used in discussions with legislators regarding our \$148M additional budget request (ABR); \$30M of that is the baseline increase from \$15.4M. These meetings with

legislators begin at the end of August and we hope to get an audience with several different legislators or committees to garner support. The one-pager outlines some of the history of our funding, what we need to remain competitive and the importance of our state shared services and KETS contracts. We also point out the importance of the E-rate program and Kentucky's maximization of that federal program since it began. We also discuss what may have to stop being taken care of at the state level if our funding needs remain unmet as we move forward:

- Campus Online Registration
- Kentucky Virtual Library
- KETS Offer of Assistance at risk of reduction
- Internet Speed adjustments downward (weaken cybersafety)
- Digital Learning Coach Stipend
- eTranscripts
- Equipment Refresh Rate --- could affect computer ratio
- People Side of Edtech – Understaffing will remain or worsen
- Campus Learning Analytics

Our ask of you will be to help us promote this need as the budget is being solidified in the August and September timeframe. Sharing this with your Superintendents and local legislators is very important.

(53:55) School Year 2023-2024 KETS Operational Budget - This was approved by the KY Board of Education (KBE) on August 3rd. The total amount of the operational budget is \$491M; this is the second most we have had throughout KETS history. The next/final step is going before the School Facility Construction Committee (SFCC) on September 6th. Once the SFCC approves, the KETS financial offers of assistance to districts can begin. We won't be able to begin the first offer process until after September 6th; that first offer will be \$12/ADA with the second offer being \$9/ADA for a total of \$21/ADA for the school year.

(55:39) 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology – This amended regulation was approved by the KY K-12 Local Supt's Advisory Committee (LSAC) on 25 July and the KY Board of Education (KBE) on 3 August. Each group were very supportive and enthusiastically approved the 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology. David shared his appreciation to all of the OET and school district staff that helped provide input, feedback, and completion of the next version of the plan that will continue to lead us forward. This is the sixth KETS master plan, and we think this is the best one yet!

(56:54) Other Items to Note:

- The revised regulation regarding leases over \$100K was approved by the KBE on August 2nd. 99% of that pertains to legal and checklist now included as part of the regulation. Our role in the process is now very very small.
- **KETS RFPS & Contracts Updates –**
 - Next Generation Kentucky Internet (NGKI) – Please be mindful that meeting the July 2024 changeover is a tight timeframe. This is kicking up into full force and we encourage you to stay attached to your KETS engineer, remain flexible, and stay engaged with your district folks about all the possible and necessary disruptions (facilities personnel, principals, etc.).
 - Connected User Experience (CUES) – This is an active procurement and has been posted. We can't discuss anything additional at this time.
 - School Report Card (SRC) – This is an active procurement and continues to go through the process with the end goal to come away with vendor contract as the outcome. The posting has closed; however, there are still several activities that must occur.
 - Professional Learning Management System (PLMS) – This is also an active procurement. This will be the first mention of the professional learning management system with the desire to have one location/single platform for all professional learning content to be offered.
- KY K-12 Digital Readiness Survey (DRS) and Munis-generated Technology Activity Report (TAR). DRS is due September 15th; there have been a few additions so if you got into it early there may be some additional questions to address. The due date for the TAR is the same. These will be covered in more

detail with you by your KETS Engineer. These reporting tools are used extensively in our data-drive decision making and being able to tell our KETS story.

- Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness (OELE) Dashboard Creation – Kentucky Educator Credential System (KECS), Kentucky Educator Placement System (KEPS) and the School Report Card are being used to build this dashboard; a demonstration/discussion was given to the KDE Leadership. David spent some time going over the five elements of high-quality data elements as outlined in the following diagram:



- Chuck gave a special shoutout to our new CIOs who are working through their first school opening!

After the conclusion of today's webcast there was a special, closed session discussion with the appropriate district K-12 CIOs/EdTech Leaders in regard to the Nintendo Switch used to play KHSAA games.