**Summary of the September 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 September 19, 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/2023/09/edtech-september-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.

(1:53) Robin Kinney Named Interim Commissioner – Robin Kinney was named as the Interim Commissioner of Education at the KBE's recent special meeting and will begin her duties in this capacity on September 30. Robin has been in this interim position once before and is a great selection to lead us until the next full-time Commissioner of Education is selected. We have a good working relationship with Robin and her office and she's always been a KETS supporter/champion. Senate confirmation is now required for any candidate for the full time Commissioner role, so it may take longer to fill the vacancy.

(4:09) Brian Spellman Joined OET Leadership Team – Brian Spellman has joined our KETS Leadership Team as of this past Monday and he is serving as the Assistant Director for the Division of School Services. Brian comes from Kentucky Educational Television (KET) where he was their technical liaison to OET for some time and is very familiar with our program.

(5:30) Upcoming Kentucky Society of Technology in Education (KySTE) Events – Neil Arnett joined in this morning to share some upcoming KySTE events:

1) **2023 Fall Event –** November 10th at Central Bank Center. William Pierce is KySTE's Vice President and in charge of this event. William will be sharing some announcements and further details soon, but there will be workshops on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Cybersecurity at this year's event.

2) **2024 Spring Conference –** Call for Presenters is open until **November 1st**. We have historically had excellent, rockstar level presentations! Last year there were 325 sessions with the vast majority of those being given by KY K-12 educators and education technology staff. We will be at the Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC) in 2024 on March 13/14. We are really excited and looking forward to this event.

(10:29) Coding at the Capitol on Sept 19th - Marty Park joined us on-site from the Capitol this morning! Twelve school districts have sent their students to participate in today's happenings around computer science learning that will include the opening session, student showcase and participation in the Interim Joint Committee of Education. David Couch and Marty Park will also be participating in a roundtable later today. There has been investment in computer science through the IT academy and it continues to grow. Discussions will continue on how we approach this moving forward and how to promote participation by both students and teachers in computer science with a comprehensive approach. There are over 400 computer science jobs unfilled in Kentucky and our goal is to have these positions filled by Kentucky students as they graduate and

enter the workforce. David also intends to showcase Kari Welch today--she is a former STLP student (1994) who now serves as the Executive Director of COT and shared how STLP changed her career path.

(16:41) **Update on the federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) for KY K-12 -** We continue to promote the ACP in Kentucky. It has been reaffirmed by Congress and they need to hear that we want this program/funding to continue. Please check out that section in your regional CIO agenda and make sure your voice is heard--this is an affordability issue and this program has been very beneficial. Right now, we are right at a 50% participation rate in Kentucky and we are still working with a few application approval issues that seem to depend upon the counselor that receives the application. We'll keep pushing to develop more efficiencies in getting approval for inclusion with this program.

(19:17) **Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS)--Top 6 Funding Priority in 2024 -** The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) made KETS a Top 6 funding priority at their August 3rd meeting. The one-pager inserted below along with follow up detailed bullet points were used three weeks ago and will continue to be

used in discussions with state legislators regarding our $148M additional budget request (ABR) for the 2024 legislative session.

We need KY K-12 district CIOs and EdTech Leaders helping us champion this message with your district leadership (i.e., your Supt, CFO) and your local state legislators. Take a look at the one-pager and let us know if you see something that you believe needs to be added or modified. We have been great stewards of taxpayer funds, yet we have taken cuts over the years. We are working to restore those cuts and then get additional monies for a variety of things. Our priority is to restore and raise the KETS baseline funding to $30M from the current $15.4M.

We met with legislators (Rep. Petrie and Rep. Reed) at the end of August and shared the KETS Budget Request Briefing one-pager. Those meetings went as well as could be expected; we had very good discussions and support. We need you to champion and play a role in getting these funds increased. If we aren't able to get this ABR or an increase of some kind, we will have to begin looking at those items that will be weakened or broken. Our request to you is to, at a minimum, cover this with your Superintendent and CFO. It's unpleasant to ask for money, but it is important for us to receive this increase. Sharing and/or contacting local legislators would be a big help in this effort. This has to be done NOW—they are not waiting until the January timeframe to build the 2024 biennial budget; it is happening now.

KETS Budget Request Briefing
Kentucky Department of Education | Office of Education Technology

All About KETS

The Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) is the pioneer and nation leader in most aspects of education technology in the United States. KETS' primary purpose is to provide EdTech services to all 171 school districts, Kentucky School for the Deaf, Kentucky School for the Blind, 51 Area Technology Centers, and the Kentucky Department of Education. Some primary functions of KETS are to provide high speed, consistently reliable and safe, internet connectivity to every public school in the state, as well as cybersecurity protections (e.g. cyberattack mitigation) and support for computer sciences.

Our Chief Concern

When established in 1992, the KETS Baseline funding level was $19.5M. Since then, statewide reliance on KETS vital EdTech services has only increased exponentially; yet, funding has eroded and been cut by 21% to the current level of only $15.4M annually.

The Celebrated KETS Financial Track Record and Shared Services Approach
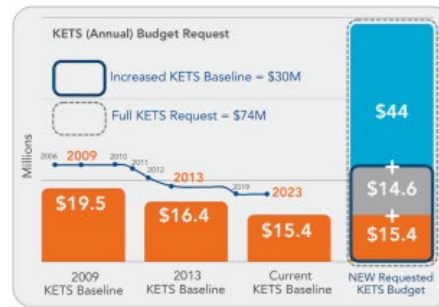
KY K-12 EdTech prices are significantly reduced by leveraging the buying power of all of KY K-12 to acquire EdTech products and service. An independent and well respected technology consultant company (i.e., Gartner) has reported that KY K-12 has saved 100s of millions over the years with this approach and districts would have had to pay 50-60% more if purchasing was done individually by each district for the very same product and service (e.g., KY K-12 Internet service for data, voice and video, financial management system (Munis) school information system (Infinite Campus), etc.). KY K-12 gets up to 4-1 bang to the buck. KY K-12 is always a top 5 state in the nation in maximizing the federal e-rate funding program per student. That along with our state level EdTech financial matching program gives us an EdTech financial edge on the other 49 states. We do this much better that any other K-12 DOE in the nation. $30M in annual KETS funding helps us to continue to do that.

At the end of each calendar year, EdTech leaders from all 171 districts provide articulated feedback to help set priorities for the coming year. Every year, these leaders emphatically indicate how greatly they value our shared EdTech services approach.
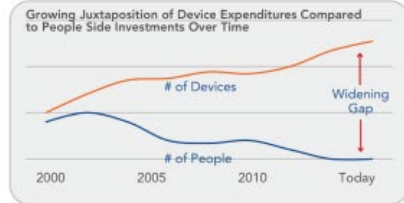
What Is Being Requested?

Because every K-12 student, teacher and staff member in every district and school in Kentucky relies on KETS EdTech services for daily mission critical instructional and operational tasks, funding must be increased to support current requirements and need. We are requesting to:

- Bolster the diminished current KETS Baseline of $15.4M with an increase of $14.6M to reach a new KETS Baseline of $30M in order to sustain current levels of service as well as help address legislative funding shortfalls (ex. statewide information system has not received funding since 2006 initial legislatively supported implementation; creating a $1.5M budget gap annually).

- Add an additional $44M annually to the new KETS Baseline to maintain support for vital EdTech initiatives including: increased cybersecurity protections, enhanced interoperability for safer online student/staff experiences, and utilizing the right people to implement EdTech with effectiveness.

KETS (Annual) Budget Request

Increased KETS Baseline = $30M

Full KETS Request = $74M

2009	2013	Current	NEW Requested
$19.5	$16.4	$15.4	$44 + $14.6 + $15.4
2009 KETS Baseline	2013 KETS Baseline	Current KETS Baseline	NEW Requested KETS Budget

Why Is This Budget Request So Vital for Kentucky's Schools?

Growing Juxtaposition of Device Expenditures Compared to People Side Investments Over Time

# of Devices — Widening Gap — # of People

2000 — 2005 — 2010 — Today

"Catch-22" - Based upon TAR (Technology Activity Report) data, this graph visualizes the growing gap between the number of devices deployed in Kentucky's schools as compared to the people side investments.

This widening gap may be best seen in the 2019-2022 annual TAR data, which shows a 108% growth in device expenditures against only an 11% growth in people expenditures over the same period.

Computer Science, Learning Services, and Data Systems

Annual KETS funds helps ensure our KY K-12 computer science services for all KY K-12 students continue to prepare students for their future beyond K-12, including providing marketable skills and tech industry certifications. Major KY K-12 EdTech data systems and services (e.g. internet service to every school, Infinite Campus school information system, Munis financial management system, etc.) are relied upon for classroom learning, daily operations, and decision making at the parent, student, teacher, administrative, district, statewide, and legislative level.

Cybersecurity and Cyberdefense

KETS provides crucial cybersecurity, cyber safety & cyber defense measures that help protect all of KY K-12 from nearly **76 billion** attempted cyberattacks each year and ensures that our EdTech internet services are only used for K-12 educational purposes.

The People Side

Extended funding will help ensure uninterrupted access to these systems and critical services while also helping districts deploy the right people to ensure these EdTech investments remain operational and implemented with expected high-quality (maximizing the deployed technologies).

What Happens If This Additional Budget Request Is Not Funded?

Sustaining current demand for the volume of KETS supported initiatives at the high standards students/schools/districts have come to depend upon will no longer be attainable without the required funding. Here are some examples of stopped or broken services:

STOPPED:
Without additional sustaining funding, this service or tool will cease to be available or offered to students/schools/districts.

- eTranscripts availability discontinued
- Student Online Registration (for every school) ends
- Virus protection ends
- Digital Learning Coach stipends end
- Kentucky Virtual Library membership not provided
- Campus Learning and Analytics stops

BROKEN/ WEAKENED:
Usability of these mission critical systems/resources will be greatly reduced, rendering many features/services inaccessible, unreliable, or even unavailable.

- Fewer computers for students to utilize for learning
- KETS Offers of Assistance are significantly reduced
- Necessity to downgrade internet speeds to slower levels
- Statewide Data Systems weakened (Infinite Campus / Munis)
- People Side of EdTech - understaffing/staff gaps worsen
- Weakened cyber safety (more susceptible to cyber attacks)
- Product Standardization is weakened
- Fewer Computer Science Certifications

Scan here to download a copy of the 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan to access detailed information about Kentucky's K-12 EdTech system.

Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

Representative Petrie and Representative Reed asked for more details around our KETS Additional Budget Request (ABR). These are some of the main points that I verbally discussed with them that I thought would be helpful to them:

- All the products and services listed in the attached additional budget request one-pager, that will be significantly negatively impacted without an increase in funding during the upcoming legislative session, were started and used by KY K-12 districts far before the pandemic began.
- None of these listed products and services were started for the first time with federal Covid funds. We would never expect nor ask for an additional budget request for an ongoing service that was solely birthed with temporary, federal Covid funds.
- However, the pandemic expediated the use and importance of these services which have remained in high demand and valued by districts. For example, as districts quickly moved to a 1 to 1 computer ratio for all their students and teachers, this in turn increased the use of technology enabled content and technology enabled services over the Internet and the amount of KY K-12 Internet bandwidth that was needed by all districts to provide that content. Covid funds were used to address that sudden increase of Internet usage by districts that has remained in demand today. Districts were already steadily moving to a 1 to 1 computer ratio; however, the pandemic quickly expediated that happening. The beginning of the year, on-line registration service for students was already available and used by districts; however, it became more in demand during the pandemic and more districts wanted to keep using this service after it ended. KDE provided the Kentucky Virtual Library (KVL) to all districts; however, the 2008 home mortgage crisis led to that service being eliminated. The pandemic allowed that valued service to be reestablished which continues to be used frequently by districts.
- KY K-12 gets some of the best prices in the nation for our KY K-12 technology enabled products and services through the RFP and negotiation process; however, given KETS has not had a cost of living increase to our $19.5M baseline since 1992 and a 30% decrease in that baseline since 2008, we are no longer able to pay for basic/valued services even after we rebid them because quality vendors are not selling their technology enabled products and services for 1992, 2002 or 2012 prices. For example, there is a legislative mandate for KDE to provide all KY K-12 districts with an Internet content management system for student cybersafety purposes. We are currently in the last year of a 10-year contract. The price for that service in 2024 will, with certainty, be more in 2024 than it was in 2014 when we awarded it last. Therefore, we need this funding increase in KETS to help pay for these types of increases or we'll need to stop providing them even though there is a legislative mandate to provide them to all districts.
- Educational organizations like KY K-12 public schools are now getting close to 80% of the attempted cyberattacks by cybercriminals and cyber scammers worldwide. Over the past calendar year, the amount of KY K-12 cyberattacks has increased from 4 billion to 76 billion. These additional funds will help our cybersecurity defense of all 171 public school districts, KSB, KSD, area technology centers and KDE the agency.
- Our KY K-12 product standards for our KY K-12 data systems are used by all KY K-12 districts (e.g., Munis for financial management, Infinite Campus for our school information system) that provide data to the legislature for decision making. Keeping a statewide product standard for these key and strategic data systems allows us to drive down costs 50-60% of what districts would normally pay for these same technology enabled products. This increase in funds allows us to pay for the annual cost of living increases in these types of services.
- In 2006, the legislature funded the initial cost for the KY K-12 school information system; however, it did not fund for the ongoing costs, particularly the $1.6M for the annual cost of the accumulator that provides the legislator and KDE with data for decision making purposes. Since 2006, we've been forced to use a funding source (i.e., federal e-rate rebates) to pay for that $1.6M that should instead be sent to districts as part of our annual KETS financial offer of assistance that the district equally matches and could be used by districts to acquire e-rate rebate products and services. Thus, we lose at least $3.2M in buying power and up to another $3M on top of that $3.2M because we are having to use that funding source to pay this annual bill. If the KETS baseline was raised by the requested amount, we'd no longer have to do that and could maximize that 3-4 bang for the buck for that $1.6M in e-rate rebates.
- KETS has been used to provide very marketable IT certifications to students. However, that service has twice been cut during a time that we have not only established computer science standards and technology standards for KY K-12 students but also during an increased demand by employers and districts for that service. Our KY K-12 student technology leadership program (STLP) has close to 60,000 students in it. This increase in funds helps us address that previous cut and to address the tremendous growth and interest of KY K-12 students in our industry IT certifications and STLP.
- Our eTranscipt service is available for all KY K-12 students upon graduation to more quickly and effectively have their college application reviewed and submitted. This service has been frequently used by a very high percentage of KY K-12 districts and universities for close to a decade. But one of the KY state agencies (KHEAA) that normally pays for a portion of the annual cost along with us says they can no longer afford it and, therefore, puts this valued service at risk of continuing unless we get these additional funds in KETS to make up that difference.
- Lastly but not least, this additional funding request allows us to address the people side of EdTech. We've always had digital learning coaches (DLCs) in districts, but the pandemic highlighted the importance of DLCs in districts maximizing the district's technology investment in the classroom. The same goes for the technicians in districts that keep all the technology enabled services (security cameras, data systems, HVAC systems, voice systems, video systems, instructional systems, administrative systems) that students, teachers, leaders and staff use daily.

7. Will you help us champion the KETS Additional Budget Request (One-pager) with your Superintendent and local legislators to help educate and garner support for our future funding needs?

39 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Absolutely - Consider it done	16	41%	
Yes, I will do my best	23	59%	
No, I probably will not share	0	0%	

It is very encouraging to see the support; please don't wait to share the documentation shared with you today.

(29:42) Investments in Information Technology Improvement & Modernization Projects Oversight Board – This is a new legislative board created during the 2023 regular session and it is co-chaired by Sen. Gex Williams and Rep. Pratt. Sen. Williams requested an introductory meeting with OET that went exceptionally well and we were asked to come and present at their initial public meeting as a model of success among state agencies. We identified our successes and also shared the ABR materials shared above. You may view David's portion of the presentation at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4KWO-TREfJI&t=4657s; it begins around the 1:15 mark.

(31:03) School Facility Construction Committee (SFCC) Update - The SFCC met on September 6 and approved the allocation supporting the 2023-2024 KETS offers of financial assistance. The KETS offer process may now officially begin. SFCC staff have been great partners with us over the years; they are a tiny staff but do an awesome job! Chelsey Couch and Kristi Russell -- we appreciate all your work and efforts to keep this program going. In all this time, some districts have banked their funds, but no district has been unable to match their funds. The first offer will be $12/ADA and that will begin in the next few weeks. The second offer will be $9/ADA and should happen in the March timeframe.

(33:34) KY K-12 Data Systems Update –

Category	Description

Data	• 2022-23 School Report Card – Visit the KSIS School Report Card Resources webpage for the complete timeline, resource materials, and communications. Current and upcoming activities include:
	  ▪ Sep. 29 – End date for school-level data collection
	  ▪ Sept. 29 – End date for review and approval of non-accountability data
	  ▪ Approval extended to Oct. 6; Changes were made to Equity and CTE data that required this extension
	  ▪ The school profile report should be signed and available by October 1
	  ▪ SRC should go live for the public on November 1 or 2
	• Replacement School Report Card contract – RFP in process – soliciting input on what folks like or would like to see improved to help guide this work
	• Visit the KDE CRDC page for updates on the upcoming 2021-22 Civil Rights Data Collection

KSIS	• Reminder: Effective Sept. 15, Infinite Campus removed all NOLOCK (and its equivalent, READ UNCOMMITTED) query hints and READ UNCOMMITTED settings from the Infinite Campus code base. To mitigate the risk of query result inconsistencies, districts should have removed any NOLOCK (and READUNCOMMITTED) query hints from their custom SQL prior to the release. See NOLOCK FAQ for more details.
Training	For details on the following training opportunities, go to the KSIS Training webpage. • 9/25-29 – Infinite Campus User Group regional one-day training, various locations • 9/19 – New Principals Training @ KDE • 12/14-15 – Infinite Campus Interchange • 1/24 – 2023-2024 KSIS Infinite Campus (Ky. Specific) mid-year, KDE Media Portal
Other	• Make plans for your district to raise awareness for cybersecurity during the 20th annual Cybersecurity Awareness Month coming up in October. The theme this year is See Yourself in Cyber. To support this initiative, America's cyber defense agency launched a new awareness program, 4 simple steps every American can take to stay safe online. For more information and to learn how to get involved as a partner with the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructures Security Agency (CISA) for Cybersecurity Awareness Month activities, contact CISA Awareness Campaigns by email. • As of Sept. 4, Kentucky has 422,667 households registered for benefits through the Affordable Connectivity Program. There are still $6.9 billion remaining appropriations available for disbursement, so districts are encouraged to continue efforts to promote the program. Visit the KDE ACP webpage for information and resources to use in outreach efforts to families. (All students in schools participating in the Community Eligibility program for free- or reduced-price meals, those receiving assistance through SNAP, Medicaid, and more are eligible for this monthly benefit.)
Personnel	For details on School Data Services team job opportunities that will be posted soon, go to the KDE Vacancies webpage. • Resource Management Analyst III (K-12 Data Reporting Specialist) • Systems Engineer (Kentucky Educator Credentialing System)

3. Will your district use Cybersecurity Month as a platform to provide additional activities to bring awareness to how everyone is responsible for cybersecurity?
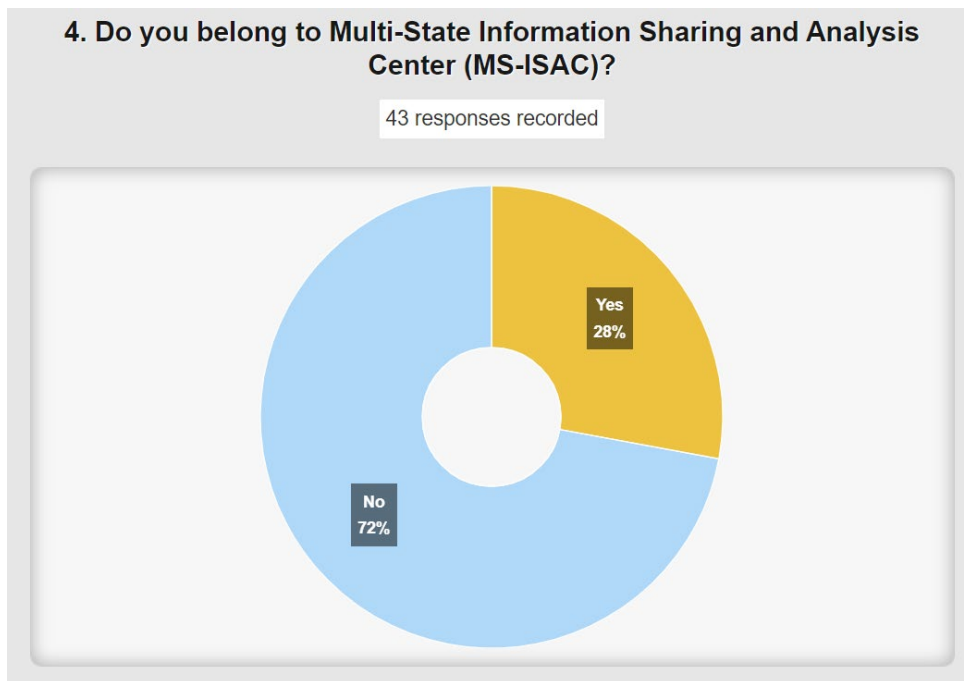
45 responses recorded

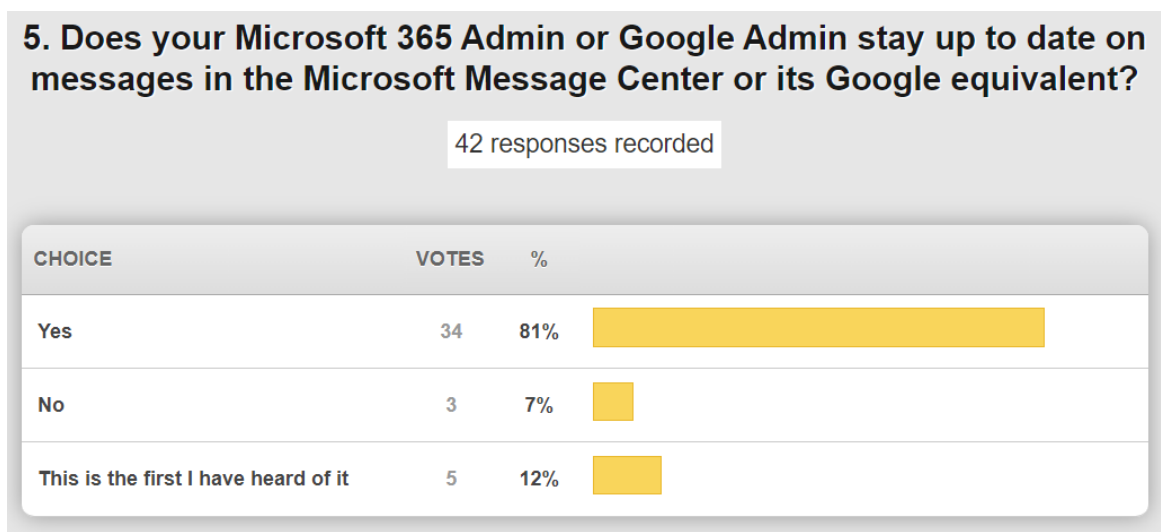| CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	12	27%	
No	5	11%	
Not Sure	28	62%	

Everyone knows now!

(37:08) Annual Technology Activity Report (TAR) & Digital Readiness Survey Update – This was due from all districts by September 15. The data submitted through these data collection processes plays a big role for us in telling our story and supporting our funding and programmatic needs.

(38:19) Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) by app, text and phone in KY K-12—Update - Moving to the cloud has done many wonderful things for us and taken much of the burden away from us. One of the down sides, however, is that when one of the cloud companies makes a change it affects everyone and this sometimes doesn't match our timeline. This results in chaos. Microsoft has been moving away from SMS text and voice verification for years regarding authentication. Last week, we received notification that Microsoft sent out letters regarding moving to the required use of the Authenticator application. We immediately reached out to Microsoft to see if we could delay this move to work with our security work timeline. We are very thankful for all that helped make this happen. However, this is the direction we want to go in and is necessary in our goal to go "password-less".

4. Do you belong to Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC)?

43 responses recorded

Yes 28%

No 72%

This is an amazing tool; membership is free and we encourage you to join and pick & choose the information you'd like to receive. This can help build and inform your annual cybersecurity healthcheck report to your local board.

5. Does your Microsoft 365 Admin or Google Admin stay up to date on messages in the Microsoft Message Center or its Google equivalent?

42 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Yes	34	81%	
No	3	7%	
This is the first I have heard of it	5	12%	

Microsoft does share their updates and changes in this area.

(47:38) Field of Play Options for KHSAA Nintendo Switch Teams Update – Last week David sent out an email to CIOs regarding field of play options for districts that have Nintendo Switch teams. The draft status has been removed from that and it is now posted on the KHSAA esports blog site. Next Thursday, September 28, there will be a one-hour meeting for eSports coaches and an invite will be going out soon for an hour slot.

1. What is your district status on completion of the School Report Card school-level data collection, including technology data points, due Sept. 29th?

51 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Complete or nearly complete	24	47%	
Making good progress	15	29%	
Not sure but will check	12	24%	

Looks like about half of you are complete!

2. What is your district status on completion of the review/approval of non-accountability data due Sept. 29th?

43 responses recorded

CHOICE	VOTES	%	
Complete or nearly complete	11	26%	
Making good progress	6	14%	
Not sure but will check	26	60%	

Little bit lower; have until October 6th