

Summary of the October 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 October 17, 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/2023/10/edtech-october-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. We did not have GoSoapBox poll questions to pose during today's meeting; however, the social Q & A portion was still available for questions. 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.

(1:27) West Point Reunion Reflection - David shared some highlights and thoughts from his recent West Point reunion; this was the 40th reunion for his class. One of the cool things in going back is the leadership aspect. West Point recruits from every demographic area of every state and once at the academy, they work to make sure you spend time with cadets of all backgrounds, so you can lead, work with and work for folks from a variety of backgrounds. In 1979 when David entered the academy, there were 17 cadets from Kentucky and only 2 completed the program. In 2023, Kentuckians are doing significantly better, and we hope that the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) and KETS have had a very positive impact on this participation and completion rates. Drew Hurley is a current cadet at West Point from Pikeville High School and David was able to meet up and talk with him. He was also able to meet up with a fellow graduate whose daughter is now a teacher in Jefferson County.

What has changed from 1979 to 2023? Johnson Central High School and Howard Ramey taught one of the first computer courses in Kentucky and David took his Computer Math courses. When David entered the academy, every West Point cadet was required to take computer science (Fortran). Fast forward to 2023 and every cadet is still required to take computer science as a freshman, but cyber is now the emphasis. They are also building a huge cyber facility on the West Point campus and there will be an increased focus on cyber defense.

(10:21) KDE Staff Survey Update - This is also good timing to share a portion of the recent KDE Staff Survey with a focus on the Office of Education Technology responses. We don't normally share this survey and results with our districts. In order for us to provide excellent service to you, our customer, it is important that we provide a good culture and climate for our own staff. The results being shared are not the agency as a whole, but the OET specific responses.

What did the various offices report about leadership expectations, integrity and support at KDE?

Leadership Responses by Office	Office of Assessment and Accountability	Office of Career and Technical Education	Office of Continuous Improvement and Support	Office of Education Technology	Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness	Office of Finance and Operations	Office of Legal Services	Office of Special Education and Early Learning	Office of Teaching and Learning	Office of the Commissioner	Grand Total
Leadership provides clear direction for the agency.											4.26
I understand the "United We Learn" vision.											4.12
I am trusted to make decisions related to my work.											4.28
I feel comfortable raising issues and concerns to leadership.											4.10
Leadership maintains high expectations for employees' quality of work.											4.54
Leadership consistently supports employees.											4.28
Leadership seeks feedback from employees on a regular basis.											4.09
Leadership acts with integrity.											4.41
Leadership promotes an atmosphere of collaboration within the agency.											4.23
Average Ratings	4.34	4.55	3.99	4.47	4.34	4.22	4.42	3.96	4.11	4.36	4.26



We know we have strong working relationships and collaboration with other KDE offices; we work hard to maintain good working relationships with them. Keep in mind that we also require our own OET staff to provide the same annual feedback that we require from you.

What did the various offices report about effective communication and information flow at KDE?

Communication Responses by Office	Office of Assessment and Accountability	Office of Career and Technical Education	Office of Continuous Improvement and Support	Office of Education Technology	Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness	Office of Finance and Operations	Office of Legal Services	Office of Special Education and Early Learning	Office of Teaching and Learning	Office of the Commissioner	Grand Total
My organization's leaders share information about the organization.											4.27
I meet regularly with my direct supervisor.											4.57
I possess the necessary tools such as email, chat, and phone to communicate effectively with other KDE employees.											4.65
I get all the important information I need to do my work.											4.15
I am informed of changes that impact my work in a timely manner.											4.07
KDE communicates effectively with schools and districts.											4.14
KDE employees communicate with colleagues in a professional manner.											4.39
Average Ratings	4.37	4.38	4.10	4.58	4.37	4.33	4.37	4.07	4.13	4.36	4.32



We are the only state that conducts these monthly meet ups, and this is very important to us. Do you have something similar to get feedback from your staff? With our monthly OET Team Huddle along with our monthly EdTech Leaders District Webcast, we probably over communicate.

What did the various offices report about the capabilities of KDE's workforce?

Skills Responses by Office	Office of Assessment and Accountability	Office of Career and Technical Education	Office of Continuous Improvement and Support	Office of Education Technology	Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness	Office of Finance and Operations	Office of Legal Services	Office of Special Education and Early Learning	Office of Teaching and Learning	Office of the Commissioner	Grand Total
I possess the necessary knowledge and expertise to ensure my work is of high quality.											4.63
I reflect on how I do my work on a regular basis.											4.64
I possess the necessary technical skills to ensure my work is of high quality.											4.58
I use data to inform my work.											4.51
I am able to develop my professional skills in my current position.											4.39
I know how to measure the quality of my work.											4.53
I can use measures of the quality of my work to make changes that will improve my work.											4.52
I engage in talk on how to improve my work with colleagues in the workplace.											4.48
My organization has the right people to do its work.											4.20
Average Ratings	4.47	4.54	4.46	4.64	4.61	4.45	4.36	4.35	4.46	4.53	4.50



We scored extremely high on this section, and we take the feedback very seriously on how we can provide high levels of service and support to our staff and our customers.

What did the various offices report about inclusivity and support at KDE?

Culture and Climate Responses by Office	Office of Assessment and Accountability	Office of Career and Technical Education	Office of Continuous Improvement and Support	Office of Education Technology	Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness	Office of Finance and Operations	Office of Legal Services	Office of Special Education and Early Learning	Office of Teaching and Learning	Office of the Commissioner	Grand Total
I have a safe workplace.											4.44
I am recognized for my work.											4.01
My bosses encourage me to develop my job skills so I can advance in my career.											4.22
I am committed to the agency's overall success.											4.70
KDE encourages new ideas (innovation).											4.13
My bosses and the agency care about me.											4.28
The people I work with cooperate and work as a team.											4.41
KDE is a good place to work.											4.39
NEW KDE is committed to including and embracing people from varying backgrounds and treating everyone fairly.											4.36
Average Ratings	4.26	4.48	4.14	4.54	4.40	4.29	4.30	4.12	4.20	4.56	4.33

Culture and climate in our office has always been a high priority and we have always worked diligently to recognize and care about our staff. We are in an environment that is constantly changing.

What did the various offices report about how KDE operates?



Operations by Office	Office of Assessment and Accountability	Office of Career and Technical Education	Office of Continuous Improvement and Support	Office of Education Technology	Office of Educator Licensure and Effectiveness	Office of Finance and Operations	Office of Legal Services	Office of Special Education and Early Learning	Office of Teaching and Learning	Office of the Commissioner	Grand Total
I can get everything I need to do my job.											4.34
KDE is prepared to handle an emergency.											4.05
KDE has good processes for doing our work.											4.07
KDE regularly reviews and improves its processes.											3.92
KDE protects important assets (property, data and information).											4.51
Average Ratings	4.30	4.17	3.97	4.40	4.27	4.18	3.99	4.03	4.09	4.21	4.18

KDE appreciates the way that we have been and are prepared to handle emergencies and continually working to improve our processes. We also spend time to protect the agency assets. We hope you have some way to receive and evaluate similar information from your district staff.

(18:27) Recognition and Retirement Announcement for Phil Coleman – Phil Coleman has been a core leader of KETS since 1993 and recently announced he will be retiring at the end of December. Phil began his career with KETS as the first permanent member of the field services staff and has been with the KETS program since 1993. Phil transitioned to Frankfort in 1998 to become Division Director of School Services and our Chief Technology Officer (CTO). Phil is the first of several staff members to retire that have been part of this program since its inception directly after KERA. Phil has had a passion for this work and his excellent service has been greatly appreciated. Brian Spellman will serve as the Interim Director as Phil’s retirement becomes effective and Brian McHugh will step back into the Assistant Director role.

Phil spoke for a moment and said it has been an incredible experience, but it has, for the most part, been the incredible people and staff that have made things happen – this is at OET and in the school districts. The KETS Timeline has captured some great points in time over the last 30 years. It has always been his passion to be a good steward and do things right and thanked everyone for helping him make this an incredible time. He plans to fish, play golf, and find ways to keep himself engaged.

(27:02) KY K-12 Virtual Academy Legislative Committee Meeting Update - This morning at 11 a.m. OET staff presented to the Interim Joint Committee on Education along with other KDE offices to discuss the Virtual Academies. There are now over 1000 students enrolled in the virtual academy with students that represent over 100 school districts across Kentucky. We will be sharing the regulation that was effective March 7, 2023, on full-time enrolled online, virtual and remote learning programs along with other statutes and regulations throughout the department. Full-time enrolled virtual students encompass a small portion, 1.8 percent, of the overall student population. If you want to listen to the full meeting, you may access it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFV6V-fHYvI> .

11:00 am, Annex Room 154
INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Agenda:
 Approval of Minutes

Gifted Education Means Economic Development in Kentucky

- Allison Mefford, Executive Director, Kentucky Association of Gifted Education
- Austin Carver, PhD, Director of Data Architecture, Samtec, Oldham County
- Dr. Julia Link Roberts, Mahurin Professor of Gifted Studies, Western Kentucky University

Introduction of Interim Commissioner

- Robin Kinney, Interim Commissioner, Kentucky Department of Education

Virtual Academies

- Dr. Mary Park, Chief Digital Officer, Office of Education Technology
- Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning
- Matt Ross, Executive Advisor, Office of Finance and Operations
- Keith Haynes, Superintendent, Cloverport Independent School District
- Tim Bobrowski, Executive Director, KYVA
- Sallie Johnson, Principal, KYVA

(29:38) Next Generation Kentucky K-12 Internet (NGKI) Pilots Update - Charlotte Chowning has been a part of some very important “firsts”. She was at Shelby County when they became the first district to have KY K-12 Internet Access and she was once again part of a first by being at Bullitt County when they became the first school district to go live with ENA. We have three sites now on the NGKI internet services—Bullitt County, Todd County and Frankfort Independent. These are pilot sites, and some fine tuning is happening along with lessons learned. They have all been successful and we have a few more pilot sites to complete before we begin a more aggressive implementation schedule in November. This is a very complex and detailed transition with school districts seeing a lot of activity; we appreciate all the time and effort by everyone involved.

(34:09) KY K-12 Data Systems Update – School Report Card is set to launch publicly on October 31 at 10 p.m. There is an embargo period beginning at 8 a.m. on October 30 until the public launch on October 31. Districts who had not approved data were contacted last week and the approval is still open. The data will go live regardless of district approval, but we feel much better knowing it has been reviewed and approved. Please reach out if you have any questions.

(36:18) KETS 1st Offer of Assistance Update - The first KETS offer notifications went out last week. If you haven't received this notification, please check with your KETS Engineer. This first offer will be \$12/ADA. You have 60 days from the date of notification to respond. The second offer of \$9/ADA will be in the March timeframe.

(38:06) Draft: KY Digital Equity Plan ([KY DE Plan 091423.pdf](#)) Update – Last month we mentioned that KDE received the draft plan. KDE has since responded and some of the response pointed out a few things that we already have in place that are not included in the plan—one large omission is that all the equity work we have done over the past 30 years for our public schools is not mentioned. There is a tendency to only include what is not done or not being done well. Feedback was received through 10/14 but you may still have the ability to respond and provide feedback.

(39:47) Other Items to Note:

- Additional Budget Request (ABR) – Robin Kinney, Interim Commissioner, met with legislators and shared the additional information as we shared in last month's meeting/summary notes.
- Coding at the Capitol – Sean Jackson did an outstanding job in representing the KETS Program and KDE's Computer Science efforts. STLP, the KETS ABR, and computer science initiatives were highlighted throughout the day as part of the day's activities—legislative committee, student showcase, panel discussion. Most of the students participating were STLP students.
- eSports – Discussion was held with eSport coaches and school district to discuss options for Nintendo Switch field of play. It went as well as could be expected.
- KySTE Fall Conference is November 10th, and we hope to see you at this event!