

Summary of the January 2024 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 January 16, 2024, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2024/01/edtech-january-2024/>.

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. 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.

(1:56) Robin Kinney joined us at the beginning of the webcast today and shared appreciation that we can continue our work even when Executive Branch offices and many school districts are using an NTI-day today as well as for all the support in her efforts as the Interim Commissioner of Education. She has served KDE for about 13 years in a few capacities, and she was asked to keep KDE moving forward in this interim commissioner role while supporting the United We Learn initiative with its three big pillars—Creating Vibrant Learning Experiences, Encouraging Innovation, and Collaboration with our Communities. The focus is keeping the child in the forefront of all our work with opportunity and access for all students. Robin has participated in our STLP State Championship and is working closely with our OET Leadership in promoting our additional budget request (ABR) for increased KETS funding.

(9:54) Top 5 Feedback Results from 171 KY K-12 CIOs & EdTech Leaders- David reviews the district feedback and then compares it to the OET staff feedback and the KDE feedback from TPC members to see where there is overlap/consistencies in what we did well, didn't do well, and what our upcoming goals should be for the program. The KETS engineers do this same type of evaluation for the districts in their region to bring a 360-degree feedback review. The OET Leadership reads all these as well; however, this year we used an AI tool to pull together some of today's analysis and also to "test" the tool. Sensitive information was removed, and keywords were provided.



Top 5 Feedback Analysis

Summary:

The document presents feedback from K-12 public school Chief Information Officers (CIOs) regarding the performance of the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Education Technology (OET) in 2023. It includes appreciation for successful projects and services, critiques of areas needing improvement, and suggestions for future goals and areas of focus for 2024.

Analysis and Major Themes:

1. Appreciation for OET initiatives (Top 5 “Things Going Well”):

Positive experiences with the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Education Technology (KDE OET) include successful implementation of the NGKI project, appreciation for proactive communication and transparency, as well as helpful training and support from field staff. The CIOs are also looking forward to the Connected User Experience (CUES) project, which is expected to streamline and improve data management and security.

- Positive reception of the NGKI (Next-Generation Kentucky Internet) project, noting successful implementation, transparency, and enhanced bandwidth upgrades.
- Acknowledgment of support provided by KDE field staff, training opportunities, and dependable communication channels.
- Recognition of the E-Rate training sessions, which continue to be helpful, especially with the complexities of navigating the program.
- Continued reliance on and benefit from KETS funding, which supports the infrastructure needs of districts. Much time and energy has been spent this past year to bring attention to this need.
- Valuable professional learning offerings and the positive impact of statewide online assessments.
- Notable cybersecurity support and emphasis, including the Baseline Security project, contributing to protecting districts with limited tech staff. There is now a new statistic added in our KETS Infographic.
- The anticipated Connected User Experience System (CUES) project is expected to streamline and improve identity management across various systems.

2. Areas of Improvement & Goals for 2024:

Future goals set by the CIOs resonate strongly with the current successes and challenges. For instance, there is an enthusiasm for the early preparation for CUES, indicating a desire for the continuation and successful execution of projects that are handled well. On the other hand, goals also focus on addressing the areas highlighted as needing improvement, such as finding a new content filtering solution, providing more technical training, and increasing cybersecurity efforts.

- Implement the CUES project promptly, ensuring that school districts are well-prepared for the transition away from Microsoft Identity Manager (MIM).
- Increase awareness and readiness for AI's impact on education and employment opportunities within the K-12 sector. Several items have been completed and we'll continue to work on this as it evolves.
- Enhancement of cybersecurity measures with detailed breach response plans and strategies for securing student and staff data.
- Elevate financial and staffing support for technology in districts to cope with the increasing burden on tech teams.
- Advancement of professional development and knowledge sharing for technology implementation, particularly as schools depend more on tech solutions.
- Need for more technical support and training in specific areas such as Microsoft 365, EPO, and others.
- Desire for improved communication during service outages and a request for a statewide status dashboard for shared situational awareness.
- Where issues have been identified, resolve these challenges and exploring alternative solutions.

Connection Insights:

- There is a request for continued support and the evolution of successful initiatives (NGKI, CUES). There is anxiety about the transition from Microsoft Identity Manager to CUES. Clear communication and training are sought to ensure a smooth transition for technical staff.
- A general desire across all three categories for stronger communication, a significant sign of the value placed on transparency and frequent updates from KDE OET.
- The continuation of professional development opportunities like the CIO summit at KySTE and E-Rate training sessions is reinforced in the "well" feedback and continues into the "goals" as areas to maintain or expand.
- The challenges of recruitment, retention, and training of staff intertwine with a call to continue advocating for the "people side of Edtech" as both an achievement and an ongoing objective.
- A demand for advanced planning and guidance (especially with CUES and AI) originates from both positive experiences with existing projects and challenges faced without such planning.

Additional/ Alternate Summaries:

Based on the provided sources, the feedback from Kentucky school CIOs offers a wealth of insights into both the successes and areas for improvement within the Kentucky Department of Education Office of Education Technology (KDE OET). Here are some insights that could contribute to the continuous improvement of your services:

Successes to Build Upon:

1. **NGKI Project**: Overall positive feedback makes this a cornerstone initiative that can be showcased as an example of successful large-scale deployment.
2. **MFA Requirement**: Recognition for implementing Multi-Factor Authentication standards reflects a strong commitment to security.
3. **Regional CIO Meetings and E-Rate Trainings**: These are valued for the collaboration and knowledge-sharing they foster among districts.
4. **Communication**: Regular webcasts and the transparency provided are much appreciated and seen as effective in synchronization and alignment efforts.

Areas for Improvement and Attention:

1. **Professional Development**: Districts desire more technical training offerings that are recorded and accessible, like a "technical YouTube," to help keep staff current on a range of topics like PII, FERPA, security measures, and technical skills.
2. **Cybersecurity Initiatives**: There's an expressed need for statewide contracts to reduce costs for services, such as phishing trials, and more direct support for security initiatives to enhance district preparedness.

Strategic Goals Going Forward:

1. **Foster the 'People Side' of EdTech**: A continued and increased focus on recruitment, retention, and professional development are necessary. District employees seek more support and advocacy for their important roles.
2. **Adapt to AI and Other Emerging Technologies**: There's an urgency to stay ahead on AI, both in terms of educational uses and security implications.
3. **Sustainability**: Questions around the fiscal and environmental sustainability of 1:1 programs suggest that a strategic reassessment might be necessary, weighing the benefits against the costs.
4. **Enhance Funding and Resources**: With the phasing out of ESSER and other COVID funds, school districts express concern about funding gaps and the maintenance of technology infrastructure.

Keywords Highlighting Key Issues and Solutions:

- NGKI, MFA, CUES, EdTech, Cybersecurity
- Professional Development, AI Integration, Sustainable Technology
- Funding, Communication, Recruitment, Content Management
- Collaboration, Staff Training, User Experience, and Innovation

In synthesizing this feedback, it's evident that CIOs value the successes that have been achieved, particularly those that demonstrate a cooperative spirit and enhance technological capabilities across school districts. Looking ahead, your office could prioritize efforts to fortify cybersecurity, facilitate professional growth opportunities, manage technology transitions like CUES effectively, and address the financial concerns related to sustaining technological initiatives. Engaging in proactive communication and responsive participation with the districts will continue to solidify the relationship and trust between the OET and the districts it serves.

Keywords:

- NGKI Project
- MFA Requirement
- Cybersecurity
- Content Filtering
- E-Rate Training
- CUES Project
- AI Integration
- Technical Training

- KETS Funding
- Digital Learning
- Staff Induction
- Communication
- Infrastructure Upgrade
- Professional Development

(26:39) January 2024 Release of the Kentucky K-12 EdTech Infographic- The Digital Readiness Data was shared in depth a few meetings ago while the work was ongoing, but it is now complete. A big shoutout to all our district leaders and field staff as this is the best and cleanest data that we have had up to date!! A special shoutout goes to Ben Maynard for his efforts.

From a logistics perspective, here are a few links to get you to this data keeping in mind that the Digital Readiness Data is part of our KETS Master Plan and available on our KETS web site in a variety of formats to fit your needs:

1. [Digital Readiness Link to Interactive Reports](#) – Snapshot, Reports, Trends
2. [Printable KETS Infographic](#)
3. [Online, Viewable KETS Infographic](#) - We use the infographic to tell a story and we share it widely to a variety of audiences. All the data has been updated and internet usage has increased. In addition to the digital readiness data, there is feedback data and perception data from our teachers and students across the state. These are good conversation starters for you at the district level. This is in a template format, and we can make that available if you want to prepare and share the same data points specific to your district; the new cybersecurity information could also be pulled to become part of your annually required cybersecurity healthcheck report that is due in August 2024.
4. Cybersecurity Addition this year--**NEW**. Bob shared his appreciation to CIOs for taking cybersecurity/cybersafety seriously in all the security initiatives we have implemented to keep KY K-12 safe and secure.

Tech Trends

821 large-scale, organized network attacks aimed at denying internet access to all Kentucky schools and districts were successfully mitigated.

School Digital Device Footprint

Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding



97% of districts are using Google for Education. Of these, greater than **83%** integrated with Office 365 & Active Directory.

More than **137 Billion** unauthorized connection attempts against school networks are blocked annually by statewide security services.

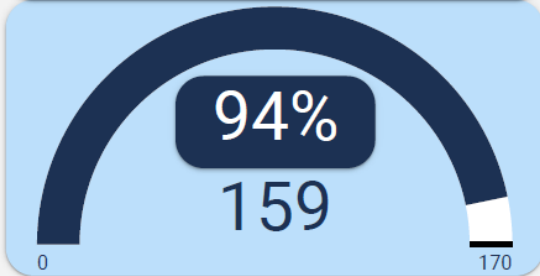
(40:30) Annual KY K-12 Computer Science Report - Sean Jackson shared this in-depth in a previous webcast and made an outstanding legislative presentation. Today we wanted to circle back and provide some additional points. The Computer Science story is one of growth for our students and district opportunities. Below is the latest statewide snapshot:



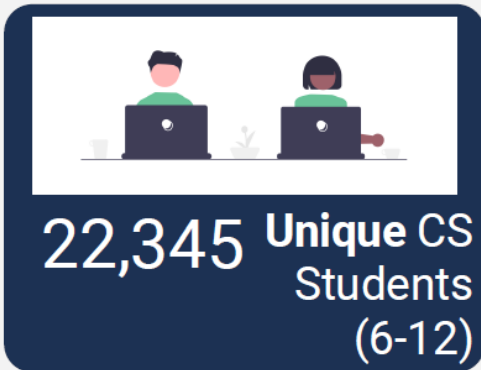
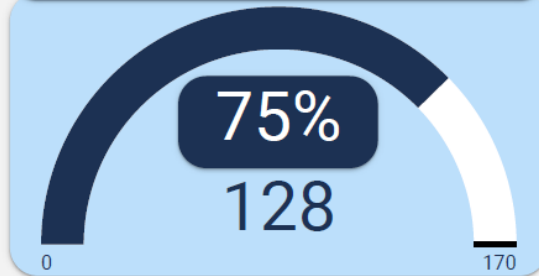
Kentucky Department of
EDUCATION

KY | State of Computer Science State Snapshot

**Districts With At Least One
Computer Science (CS) Course****



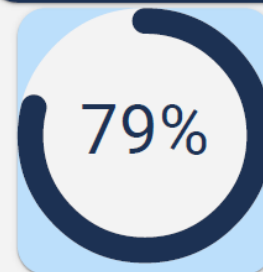
**Access to Career and Technical
Education (CTE) Path****



**High Schools or ATCs with
access to at least
One CS Course**



**Districts with access to
AP CS or Advanced
Technical Programs**



Code.org just recently added one additional policy for a total of 10. That requirement was to make successful completion of a computer science course a graduation requirement. Kentucky is not ready to pursue this at this time, but we know that we can address this in a variety of ways.

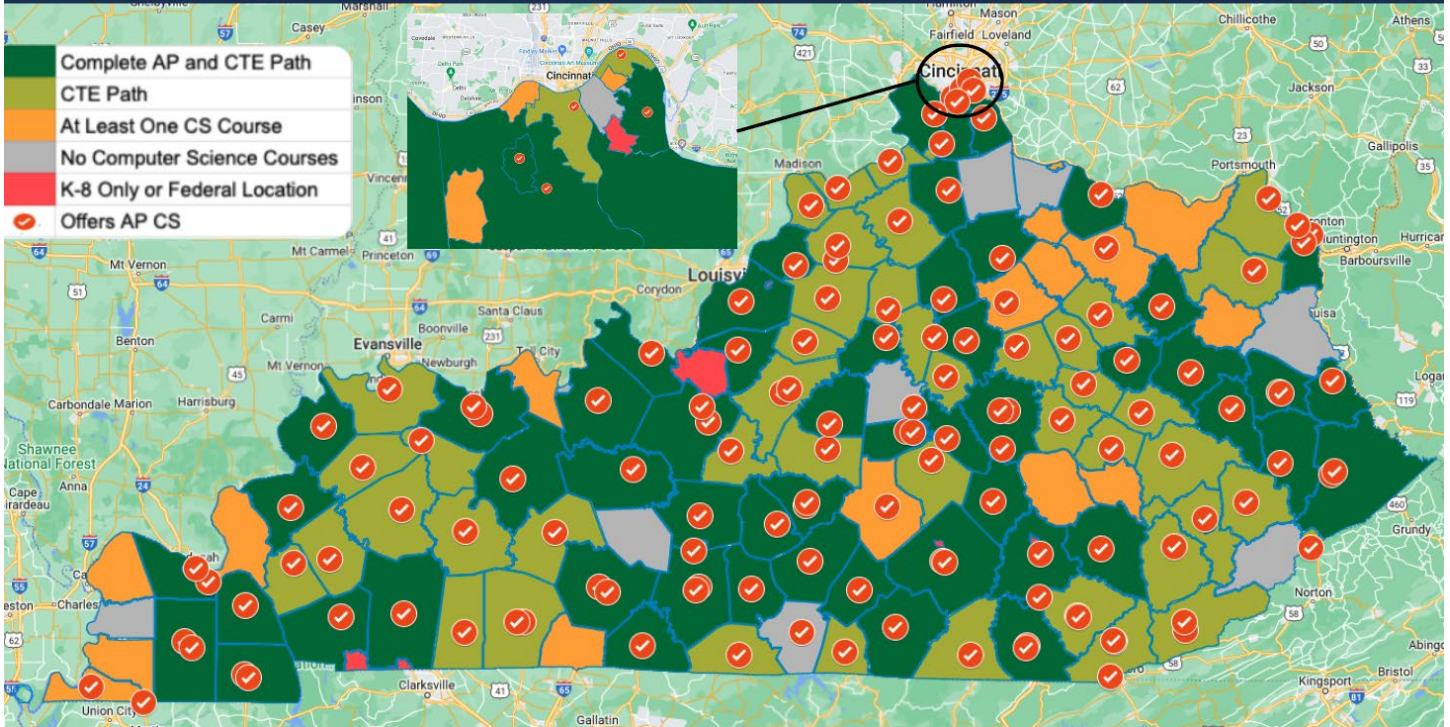
Kentucky's Progress on Code.org's 10 Policies to Make CS Fundamental

Allocate funding for rigorous computer

Establish rigorous K-12 computer science standards.	YES	Implement clear certification pathways for computer science teachers.	YES	Establish dedicated computer science positions in state education agencies.	YES	Allow computer science to satisfy a core graduation requirement.	YES	Require that all students take computer science to earn a high school diploma	NO
Create a state plan for K-12 computer science.	YES	Allocate funding for teacher professional learning and support.	YES	Create programs at institutions of higher education to offer computer science to preservice teachers.	NO	Require that all secondary schools offer computer science.	NO	Allow computer science to satisfy an admission requirement at institutions of higher education.	YES

The implementation map for Computer Science Course Implementation shows that we are teaching CS across the state. The checkmark is for an AP Computer Science principals course implementation that is funded by OET.

Statewide Computer Science Course Implementation Map



Demographic information reinforces the discussion at the recent legislative panel discussion that we need to provide space for all students to feel welcome. We are always striving to get better in this area. We covered the courses currently being provided before showcasing the teacher data. Historically, there has been difficulty in getting teachers certified to teach Computer Science courses and we have been successful in getting the Approval for Teaching Computer Science Certification; this certification area has really opened this up and made it more feasible for teachers to gain credentials in CS. The current and past CS reports are also a part of our KETS Master Plan and available via our website.

(49:33) KY K-12 Data Systems Update –

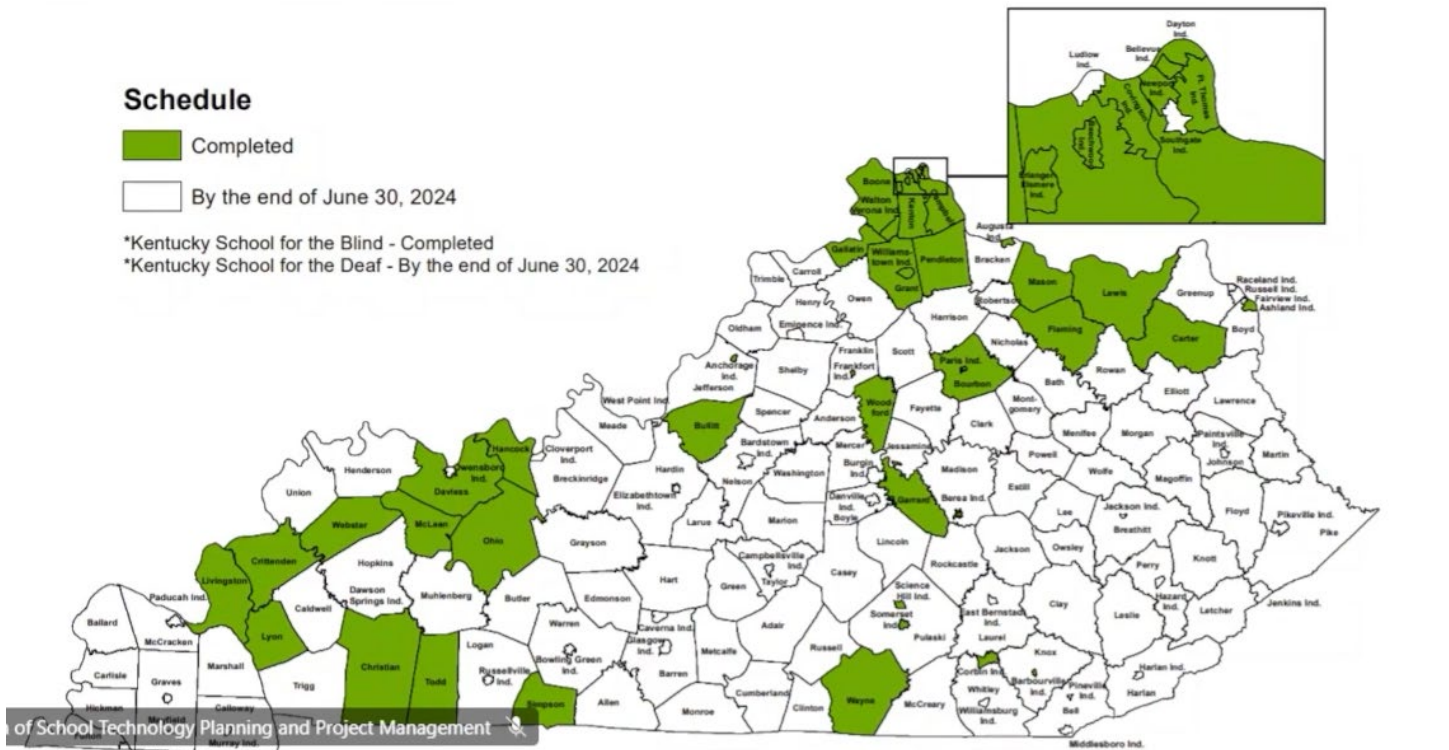
Category	Description
Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Report Card – The RFP work is still in process. Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) submission system is in full swing and open until Feb. 26. KDE uploaded data for the LEAs in December; districts must review, and now they must review, resolve all error messages and certify by close of business on Feb 26. As of the time of the webcast, 13 districts have completed and certified their data submission and review. Visit the KDE CRDC webpage for more information. Candy Johnson is the OET contact on this data, so please contact her if you have questions.
KSIS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KDE is working with Infinite Campus to make needed changes for emails sent by Infinite Campus using Mailgun to meet new Google and Yahoo mail requirements coming in February. Regular periodic reviews of Infinite Campus user accounts and tool rights are essential to your district's data security and privacy. Start the new year with a check for stale or inactive accounts to eliminate unnecessary security risks. The Active User Account Access/Usage report can be used to help with this review. Infinite Campus Interchange 2024 is scheduled for Dec. 5-6. Registered participants from last year's Interchange received a survey from Lisa DeGaris (Infinite Campus) to get feedback to help plan for the next Interchange. Be sure to complete the survey and mark your calendars now for the 2024 Interchange.

Category	Description
Other	<p>For details on the following training opportunities, go to the KSIS Training webpage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KSIS Infinite Campus mid-year training – Cancelled. Feb. 27-29 – Infinite Campus System Administrator & End User Training (targeted to new users), Oldham Co. Arvin Center, LaGrange, Ky., Cost: \$400 April 24 – KSIS Infinite Campus end-of-year training, KDE Media Portal

(54:54) 2024 Legislative Session Update - Session Convenes @ 4 p.m. on Tuesday, 1/16; it will be Day #10 of 60. Below are some of the session highlights and updates:

- There have been just under 500 bills and resolutions filed as of Friday, 1/12/2024.
- Bills can be filed until Feb. 26th in the House and February 28th in Senate.
- 2024 Committee meetings and regular session proceedings are archived either via KET or the LRC YouTube channel and can be viewed at any time.
- KDE is currently following about 70 bills that would impact KDE and/or school and districts. Major topics are related to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), parental rights, taxation, DEIB, school choice, numeracy, and a few cleanup bills that KDE initiated.
- SB52 is edtech specific, focusing on AI, and OET has prepared a comprehensive bill review. It has been assigned to the Senate Education Committee but has not been put on an agenda to go before the committee members. This bill calls for a Council for Education Technology to be created and the creation of a plan that includes AI—this is already being done. Another component that is new is a report that each school district and KDE must complete on applications that are using/implementing AI tools. We are spending time to educate our legislators and have discussions to share what is already being done.
- We also continue to watch the budget closely.

(1:03:19) Next Generation KY K-12 Internet (NGKI) Implementation Update - We will continue to transition from project to a service through July 2024. Flexibility is the key right now with make-ready work, scheduling, and weather-related changes. There have been some outages and disruptions, but we try our best to learn from each one and do better moving forward. There are 46 sites transitioned at this time.



(1:07:06) Status of other KY K-12 EdTech related RFPs – Any RFP work that we have in process is in conjunction with the KDE Office of Finance and Operation and the Procurement Office of the Finance and Administration Cabinet. There is very little we can share when the RFP activity is happening.

- CUES – Ongoing RFP Activity and was reposted.
- SEEK – Ongoing RFP Activity
- PLMS – Ongoing RFP Activity
- SRC – Ongoing RFP Activity
- Internet Filtering and Content Management – We will be reaching the last extension of this existing contract and are actively working on how to move forward; it will be expiring in June 2025.

(1:12:52) E-rate & KETS Offer of Assistance Updates –

- The E-rate window is open through March 27. Regional trainings are beginning this week and district staff may attend ANY of those.
 - Wi-Fi buses are now an allowable reimbursable expense.
 - Mini bids – we want to make sure that we don't negatively impact the integrity of the mini bid process as well as our state standards.
- KETS Offers of Assistance – All extension paperwork for the 1st Offer of Assistance has been completed. We are on track for the 2nd offer in the April timeframe; that offer will be \$12/ADA.

(1:14:57) ServiceNow Update - Brian Spellman introduced the successful January 5th launch of our new ServiceNow service desk software. This will allow the KETS Service Desk to have better case management. Impact to users will be minimal – the way to contact or submit a ticket is the same. Emails to customers will look a little different and they will be coming from KETS Support. There will, over time, be additional options/services but we are beginning with similar offerings as before and will continue to expand as we move forward.

(1:19:11) Legislative Research Commission's (LRC) Annual Graduation Citation – Johnathan Harris from OET and Lindsey Swartz from KDE's legal offices joined us today for this topic. David shared the changes that are being implemented for this year's annual citation work. This will also be shared (without the technical components) during the Superintendent webcast that will be held later today. All these changes and work will be completed primarily by the district's KSIS point of contact, but we wanted to share the background and details with you as the edtech leader of your district.

The data being requested needs to come from the LEA (local) versus the SEA (state) in accordance with the FERPA privacy standards. Therefore, the school districts will send this information directly to the LRC. David shared some of the talking points and the data elements to be provided:

1. There are 9 data elements from only 8th and 12th grade students that LRC needs from each district for their graduation citation (see the chart below).
2. Will take 2 days for KDE to create and deliver to all districts the LRC 8th and 12th grade graduation citation tool available in their district's Infinite Campus (IC) system. This LRC graduation citation tool will be available to all districts in their Infinite Campus system no later than the day after KDE's written communication with Supt's on this topic.
3. The district's IC system is overall operated and managed by the district's Kentucky Student Information System (KSIS) point of contact (poc). Most often the district's KSIS main point of contact (poc) is the district's director of pupil personnel (DPP).
4. The district's KSIS point of contact is the primary person that will be using that LRC graduation citation tool to export those 9 data elements in the local district's IC system for the 8th and 12 grade students, whose parents have not opted out of the local education agency (i.e., the school district) providing that directory information for something like LRC's graduation citation from their local legislators, in a CSV file format. It will take on average 5 minutes for the KSIS poc to use this LRC graduation citation tool to gather the information that LRC needs in their district's IC system for their appropriate 8th and 12th grade students (i.e., for the children of the parents who have not opted out) and have the results available in a file in their district's IC system in CSV format.
5. The district's KSIS point of contact will be the person that sends that CSV file to the location that LRC identifies (i.e., via e-mail to grad.data@lrc.ky.gov).

6. Giving KY K-12 district CIOs and EdTech Leaders a heads up today. A verbal communication will go from the KDE Commissioner's Office to all Supts on this topic on Tuesday afternoon in the Supt's monthly webcast. A written communication will go to Supts after that briefly describes the LRC graduation citation. This written communication will also:
 - (a) identify the 9 data elements for 8th and 12 grade students that are needed from the district to be provided directly to the LRC staff by 15 March in order for LRC to have enough time to create, print out, and mail their paper graduation citations to the 8th and 12th grade students to their associated school building, in all 171 districts before graduation day in May.
 - (b) identify that their district's KSIS poc will need to use the LRC graduation citation tool in IC to grab this information of the 8th and 12th grade students in their IC system of the only the children of the parents that have not opted out of the local education agency (aka the school and school district) providing directory information to individuals or organizations beyond the district for things like the graduation citation, and
 - (c) identify that the district's KSIS point of contact will need send the CSV file in their IC system to LRC's secure e-mail system.

7. LRC will have a list of KY state legislators that have requested that a graduation citation be create and send a letter of congratulation from the legislator to all the 8th and 12th graders in that school that congratulates the student on their 8th or 12th grade graduation. The LRC staff will then create and send paper graduation citations to the schools of all the 8th and 12 graders in those schools, whose parents have not opted out of their child's directory information being shared.

8. LRC staff can use KDE's Open House <https://openhouse.education.ky.gov/Directory> to directly get contact information (i.e., the e-mail address and phone number) to communicate directly with the superintendents that didn't turn in the data that LRC needed by 15 day in March. LRC can also make KDE aware of the specific districts that did not submit their LRC graduation citation CSV file by x date in March so a reminder message can be sent to the Supts of those districts from the Commissioner's Office.

Below is an example of the data that we have received in the past.

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Grade	District Number	District	School Number	School	Academic Year
Jane	J	Doe	12	1	Adair County	10	Adair County High School	2024
John		Smith	12	11	Anderson County	20	Anderson County High School	2024
Jane		Smith	12	17	Bardstown Independent	20	Bardstown High School	2024