Summary of the August 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 August 20, 2024, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2024/08/edtech-august-2024/.

Public viewing of the archived webcasts and written summaries are also available on the KDE Media Portal at: https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/district-technology-leadership-webcast/ . 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 joint 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.

(3:13) **Follow-up on KY K-12 CIO/EdTech Summit Topic #3:** This last topic was asking our districts "What are the very top educational issues facing their school districts and how can education play a role in addressing them?" This topic encompassed student attendance/enrollment/ chronic absenteeism, truancy, teacher shortages across certified and classified positions, transportation issues, etc. Below are the individual questions and "One Big Idea" feedback we received on Topic 3 from close to 80% of the KY K-12 CIOs/EdTech Leaders sitting in 21 tables at the Louisville International Convention Center. The main teaching point here is that we need to be part of the main educational initiatives in our school and districts and how technology can play a role with those.

Q1 - Which one of these major topics are you seeing as most critical in your district and what are the current implications (EdTech or Non-EdTech)?

Table #	The ONE Big Idea
Table 1	The teaching/staffing shortage is negatively affecting the districts, which can then also impact attendance. Not having the staff, or not the right people in the right places can also lead to a lower enrollment rate (kids going to home school - switching districts)
Table 2	Absenteeism is most critical. It negatively affects funding which then reduces funds for quality teachers. Teachers walk out mid-year. They've never seen this before. Students have control of the classroom now. Teachers can't be all/fix all - mental health, etc. Then there are all the assessments.
Table 3	Teacher, substitute teacher shortage
Table 4	Attendance on how we get students to participate in-person or virtual; how to align with local industry for future job prep to increase attendance
Table 5	Teachers- trying to collaborate with surrounding districts to share teachers or virtualize programs. Boost excellent teacher pay to expand their role over more students. See that we are at a tipping point towards non-traditional approaches, fewer instructional days, shorter work week, virtualize programs.
Table 6	Staffing and student attendance leading to staff cuts.
Table 7	Absenteeism is important because it affects funding. Certain teachers are kept and staying longer because of the fear that we can't fill the position
Table 8	Money which affects teacher turnover, student attendance due to multiple illnesses, bus driver shortage, option 6/emergency certification teachers lessen the quality of instruction. Teacher feeder program and college recruiting seem to be helping.

Table 9	Transportation issues (lack of drivers, budget it takes)
Table 10	Top issue is lack of teachers, but all of them are on our minds constantly.
Table 11	Teacher/sub shortage; bus driver shortage-teachers are driving the buses. This isn't something folks in this room can fix. There are unrealistic expectations on teachers.
Table 12	Staffing concerns were discussed much more than student truancy, but this evolved into challenges seen with student behaviors that have led to those challenges with staffing. Attendance certainly impacts $ more, but staffing seems to be the bigger issue.
Table 13	Student attendance is the topic of concern. Some policy changes have affected those attendance rates
Table 14	Students are having to learn more and more and they may be liking it less and less. The same for teachers - learning standards are becoming more and more. Connections are being dulled due to having to do more and more at the same time. It becomes a matter of overload and may be causing the teachers and students to care less.
Table 15	Bus driver shortages causing double runs, late arrivals or late getting home. Teacher shortage causing issues with no subs, principals in classrooms and teachers covering during planning times
Table 16	Staff shortages. Hard to convince you need more staff to support the technology when there are open positions across the board. Enrollment numbers going down in more rural areas due to lack of jobs or other opportunities AND homeschooling.
Table 17	Unqualified subs. Teacher intern program for the first year. Highly qualified teachers leave because of higher pay in other districts. Virtual academy can address attendance for those students that don't do well in person.
Table 18	Tie: Student attendance (money increased) & Classified staff shortage (transportation, tech, cooks - difficult to compete with salary offerings)
Table 19	Attendance is the biggest issue. Funding reduction is the end result. Teacher turnover is right there as well.
Table 20	Teacher shortages, attrition, and skill set. Transportation challenges for larger and smaller districts
Table 21	Staff shortages cause coverage issues and impact all areas. Mathematics is a particularly hard position to fill. Accountability is important but the issues are complex and hard to solve. Think big and look at needed changes to K-12 instead of waiting for society to conform to our ways.

Q2 - With these major topics that affect most or all aspects of our work in our schools, how do you see EdTech being a part of the solution?

Table #	The ONE Big Idea
Table 1	Being able to offer virtual courses can make certain classes more readily available for students. Partnered with local health facility to offer a telehealth option to help offset declining pool of nurses.
Table 2	Technology can't fix absenteeism but can help some if used effectively. Teachers need to learn how to facilitate learning using technology as a tool. There is a space for hybrid/virtual for some kids but needs to be used effectively.
Table 3	The technology is not the problem and they are even providing internet at home for both Hybrid and virtual opportunities. Online job postings outside the districts hiring site. Walk-in Wednesday's interviews for custodians, bus drivers
Table 4	Virtual school offering. Learning different ways to provide support for our virtual teachers along with equipment/needs or allowing them to work from home; provide devices and hotspot (if applicable for socioeconomic needs).
Table 5	Virtualizing, mimic college instructional delivery, however, ensure that instructor is involved in delivery not 100% prerecorded/digital.
Table 6	Bringing back virtual program, home-school program with Co-op, staying adaptable to not be a barrier, drop-out programs, hybrid for staff shortages, Transportation finder for transportation, struggle of finding balance of expenditures on Ed Tech (and other stuff) vs. teacher pay

Table 7	Training how to make this as effective as it can be. Curriculum is the driver. Technology is the accelerator. Must be good teaching at the core of everything we're doing. Tech makes it move faster. These are not individual department issues… this is everyone's purpose. Blur the lines between curriculum focus and technology focus --- bring it together for the benefit of teachers, students and even families (particularly families that may not see the value of school).
Table 8	Taking home schooled students and enrolling them into virtual programs by supplying devices. Pushing out Google Classroom/Edgenuity Assignments to students at home.
Table 9	Looking at efficiencies digital can provide, especially with transportation. Have kept virtual programs spun up during the pandemic that have allowed some students to remain in the district when they otherwise would have dropped out or been chronically absent.
Table 10	Using technology to provide specialization courses (calculus, physics) in the district.
Table 11	Virtual can help with attendance issues, some districts are seeing "virtual" as a four-letter word after Covid
Table 12	One idea is the use of technology to "share a sub" or share a teacher between buildings. Teacher is in school 1 and virtually also teaching students physically at school 2. Technology could also help with the on-boarding and mentoring process for new staff.
Table 13	Virtual offerings have had some success in bringing back some kids who went to Home Schooling options.
Table 14	Making sure that technology is not a replacement for good teaching and being able to help your students learn individually.
Table 15	Use virtual learning options to reengage students in learning. Help streamline processes in HR hiring practices to get more folks to work. Use AI to streamline administrative tasks giving teachers and principals back some time.
Table 16	Overwhelming consensus at the table is that younger grades cannot succeed with more of a virtual focus. Newest CIO at our table just came out of the 4th grade classroom 6 months ago and affirmed the need for in person at younger grades. "HOW DO WE SHOWCASE EDUCATION AS A PROFESSION TO GET BACK INTO"
Table 17	Virtual academy can address attendance for those students that don't do well in person. Work with home schools to try to get them to come back to virtual.
Table 18	Host virtual employee recruitment "Virtual Job Fair" with Principals/Teachers in rooms to help recruit for shortage areas. Technology based sub calling system
Table 19	Technology to help transportation routes for bus routes. Option of virtual schooling.
Table 20	Districts are looking for niche technical offerings to draw student enrollment and attract more teaching talent interest.
Table 21	Virtual is a solution for some kids but it is not for all. Maintain the human element but programmatically we have to go back to the student experience. Revising policies for sick notes etc. Think big and look at needed changes to K-12 instead of waiting for society to conform to our ways.

(5:17) Every Student Counts! Initiative: Before the pandemic, there were 5% of KY K-12 schools experiencing chronic absenteeism and we now have 77%, so this a major issue. KDE just launched a public messaging campaign to raise awareness of the chronic absenteeism issue, which includes ads on television, radio and billboards across the Commonwealth emphasizing that attendance matters. The billboard images feature messaging about how much students miss when they aren't in school, like class, football games, band, gym class, lunch or playing with friends at recess. The TV and radio ads follow a similar theme.

KDE provides tools in Infinite Campus to help school leaders track chronic absenteeism. For example, the Early Warning tool examines a composite of factors such as attendance, behavior, stability and academics in order to identify students at higher risk for dropping out. Infinite Campus also includes Insights data visualization dashboards, including attendance data and reports on chronically

<u>absent</u> and <u>transient student</u> populations. Another tool that technology may provide is assisting in making the instructional content more engaging to the students.

(8:41) Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) Follow-up: At the August 8th meeting of the KBE, OET gave the annual presentation and received unanimous approval of the Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) operational budget for SY 2024-2025. We covered this in detail during the July edtech leaders' district webcast. The next step is a similar presentation to the School Facility Construction Commission (SFCC) on September 4, 2024. With the approval at the SFCC meeting, OET will then be prepared to officially begin the KETS financial offers of assistance to all districts. Kristi Russell has been promoted to the Executive Director of the SFCC replacing Chelsea Couch who moved to the Finance and Administration Cabinet. We are very excited for her in this role.

The KETS program's edtech health is excellent, but we do still need to address future KETS funding in the upcoming budgetary/legislative session. Our board has been very supportive of supporting this additional budget request and we were able to address this with three new board members who were attending their first KBE meeting.

(11:33) Annual Cybersecurity Healthcheck: Each year by the end of August, the annual cybersecurity healthcheck is to be provided by district CIOs to their Supt. & local school board. We hope you have completed this annual requirement.

The Office of Education Technology provides the same type of report to the Commissioner and the KBE. This is an excellent way to get before the board and advocate for technology and security needs of your schools and districts. OET's cybersecurity healthcheck report was presented to the Kentucky Board of Education members. One of the items recommended was the need to begin proactively conducting phishing tests to increase the awareness and knowledge of phishing within KDE. In our next All Team KDE meeting, David and Bob will be discussing an upcoming phishing test for KDE staff.

(13:02) KDE Regulation Amendment Update: KDE is currently amending <u>704 KAR 3:535</u> that covers full-time enrolled online, virtual and remote learning programs. This regulation originally went into effect on March 7, 2023. The main revision centers around how schools flag students for accountability purposes. There is also one clarification and one point of emphasis along with some technical modifications. This regulation went before the KBE along with the companion regulation being brought forward by the Office of Assessment and Accountability; amendments were approved and the regulation will now go through the public comments period and legislative review process.

(13:34) Kentucky Society for Technology in Education (KySTE) Fall Conference Update: Chuck gave a shoutout to Rhonda Thompson, KySTE Vice President, for all her hard work in planning this fall event. The main strand this year at the KySTE fall event is focused on the Connected User Experience (CUES) initiative being implemented over the next few years. Other strands being planned are maximizing the effective uses of technology. Dr. Scott McLeod is a featured speaker discussing deeper learning practices.

(17:42) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:

- SRC Suite expected to open for data entry/verification by 9/16
- School Profile Report Due 10/1
- Campus Learning/Online Registration – We do not have an answer yet to share about the extension of ESSER funds; we'll communicate as soon as we have an answer and it could be toward the end of September.
- eTranscript – This is a reminder that transcripts for 2024 graduates will be free until 8/31
- Trainings – There are some sessions scheduled in next few months. These are recorded if you aren't available to attend live. IC will be delivering training on the new rosters and requests functionality within Campus. There will also be some information shared on cross-site enrollment.
- IC held off on the sunset of the SFTP legacy protocol; however, we still encourage you to move to the new systems before the old system does sunset.

- Kentucky Educator Credentialing System (KECS) – LEAD report is updating on a daily basis now versus weekly.

(21:01) Social Security Numbers (SSN) Healthy Data Diet: We will be working with Infinite Campus to make some modifications regarding SSNs. These will be more impactful at the state level, but at the district level, we are working with Infinite Campus to provide tools where districts can make choices on whether to keep the old historical Social Security numbers or not or how many of those to actually continue to update in their system. David will be discussing this issue with Dr. Fletcher in his next direct report and sharing our efforts with KySTATS, KHEAA and CPE. Our next meeting will be with CPE to find out their true need for SSNs. We will also be discussing this with our KDE legal and legislative staff to see how we can effect change in regulations and statutory language and work toward removing dependence on the collection of SSNs.

(23:43) Status of KY K-12 EdTech RFPs, Contracts and Implementations: Mike reported that all of these are at some point in the procurement process and are all progressing. The following items are currently in some stage of procurement process and moving forward:

- Internet Content Management- Going through the normal RFP process.
- Professional Learning Mgt System (PLMS) -This is for all adults that need professional learning that would be published or hosted by the Kentucky Department of Education.
- Kentucky Educator Credentialling System (KECS) – This is ongoing work with a few more phases of that project still to be implemented.
- Insight – The new contract holder as the Microsoft channel partner; this was effective in April 2024. Discussions are occurring around the offerings and how the licensing is provisioned; we hope to provide some greater detail and make improvements on this very soon.
- School Report Card Suite (SRC) –This is ongoing work as well and the suite is expected to roll out mid-September with a public release in mid to late November. We are very optimistic in our work with AnLar and being able to meet all the expectations. See the Data Systems Update given earlier for a full list of anticipated release dates, etc.
- Next Generation KY K-12 Internet (NGKI) – We've completed the transition of all districts, KSB and KSD last week. KDE will transition on July 17 and that will have us all moved over to the NGKI solution through ENA. There is still much work to be done that will occur over the next several months in the areas of new functionality, enhancements in reporting, etc. We have a 10-year contractual opportunity with this current contract and we are looking forward to it. We are piloting some network analytics, called KENTIK, with ten school districts—it provides real-time data and analytics. There will be a dashboard view that will be a tile on your My ENA portal.
- KY K-12 Connected User Experience System (CUES) – On June 20, a contract was awarded to Identity Automation. This award will create a new KETS standard for identity and directory service as a statewide shared service. There are events scheduled and being planned to provide much more information and details around this upcoming implementation—KASBO Conference, KySTE Fall Conference, Kentucky Interchange, possible special webcasts, and regional meetings. Please stay in close contact with your regional engineer on all things CUES!
- SEEK – This contract has been awarded to G2O and is now an ongoing implementation.

(24:40) E- rate Update/Upcoming Trainings: We have covered this in previous webcasts, but wanted to restate the KETS Offers are planned for $21/ADA for the year with a $12/ADA first offer in the October timeframe and a second offer of $9/ADA in the March/April 2025 timeframe.

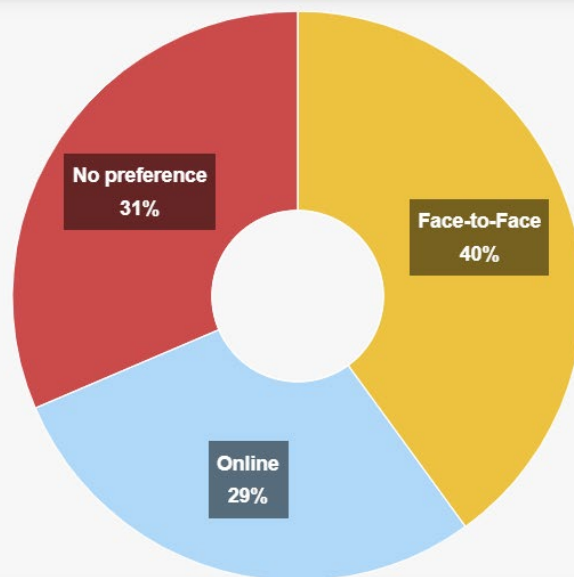## 1. Do you plan to attend E-rate Training this year?

36 responses recorded

Depends upon how it is offered
11%

Unsure
19%

No
6%

Yes
64%
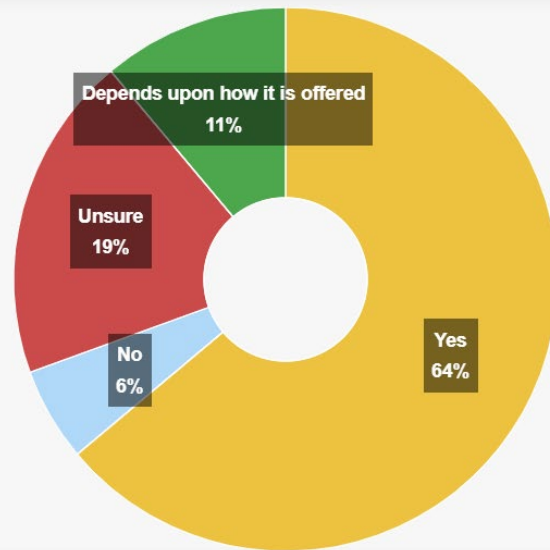
This supports our anticipation that these trainings are still important to our district edtech leaders.

2. Do you prefer E-rate Trainings to be offered face-to-face or online?

35 responses recorded

No preference
31%

Face-to-Face
40%

Online
29%

The % of face-to-face was a little higher than originally anticipated and this will be taken into consideration as we work through the planning for these upcoming trainings.

There were also a few discussion questions and those responses are being tabulated and reviewed by the E-rate program staff. The E-rate program is going through some shifts and changes and there has been some recent activity and questions about the program. We don't anticipate any immediate changes as they work through the recent court ruling and next steps.

At the end of this meeting, we went into closed session where ENA's senior leaders joined us regarding where we are now and what we can expect going forward. This portion of the webcast was only for KY K-12 CIOs/EdTech Leaders, OET staff and ENA staff.