

Summary of the September 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 September 17, 2024, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2024/09/edtech-september-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 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.

(1:28) Transition to Microsoft Teams for Polling: David announced the retirement of GoSoapBox and the adoption of Microsoft Teams for polling, aiming to continue the tradition of interactive feedback collection. The transition to Microsoft Teams includes the use of the Q&A tool for ongoing discussions, ensuring that the most pressing questions are addressed during the meeting.

(4:45) Legislative Priorities for 2025: David discussed OET's three legislative priorities, including removing outdated/obsolete statutory language and addressing cybersecurity concerns. One priority includes the removal of a statute that allows teachers to purchase computers off the state contract, which has become obsolete and used for unrelated purposes.

(7:33) Interim Joint Committee on Education (IJCE) AI Presentation 10/15/2024: This date and time conflicts with our normal webcast day/time so we are shifting next month's meeting to the 16th. We plan to have a short opening discussing information we plan to send to them in advance and leave most of the time for questions. We plan to share the AI guidance document and speak to the feedback we received from you on the AI topic (from both the 2023 and 2024 CIO Summits) and reference Donnie Percy's book which gives his views on how to use AI effectively in the classroom. David had some additional points and recommendations and has even asked AI to give him potential questions he'd receive from the IJCE. We do expect questions around the use and banning of cellphones in the classroom as well as social networking applications. Data protection in the K-12 environment and creating safe boundaries is a primary concern.

(13:13) KETS Offers of Assistance Update: We have approval now from both the Kentucky Board of Education and the School Facilities Construction Commission to begin the KETS offer process for 2024-2025. October 7th is the target date we anticipate the first offer going out to districts; this will be a \$12/ADA offer with the anticipation of a second offer of \$9/ADA in the spring timeframe.

(14:46) Federal ESSER funds Extension & KETS additional budget request (ABR) update: The ESSER extension submitted for KDE as a whole was approved and this will positively impact several edtech-related services. This approval will enable the continuation of services such as Infinite Campus online registration, alleviating financial concerns and providing stability for districts relying on these services. This extension is until March 2026 and there will be more clarification and communication on services covered by this extension as we move forward.

Right along with this we have continued to lobby for the KETS additional budget request that has not been funded by the legislature in past budget sessions. David addressed the serious implications of ongoing budget cuts and the lack of cost-of-living adjustments since 1992, which are leading to a shift in financial responsibilities to districts. The failure to address budget cuts and cost adjustments could result in districts having to bear additional costs, losing the benefit of state-level discounts.

(16:40) KY K-12 EdTech Recognized & Celebrated: Each year the State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) prepares and releases an edtech trends report. Kentucky is one of the four states featured in the 2024 SETDA report (on page 19): [2024 State EdTech Trends Report Final.pdf](#).

Spotlight on Kentucky: The Benefits of Consistent State Leadership



The Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) of 1990 transformed the state's K-12 education system, relaunching the state's Department of Education (KDE) and increasing its responsibilities and influence in the process. KERA also served as the jumping-off point for the modernization of the state's education system by establishing the Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) under the leadership of the Department's Office of Education Technology (OET) and David Couch, the Department's Chief Information Officer and the Kentucky K-12 EdTech Leader.

Over three decades, that work has helped Kentucky become a national leader in the equitable and effective use of technology. In the process, the Department has often taken on responsibilities, like statewide procurement of edtech solutions, that are the province of local education agencies in many other states. "K-12 education in Kentucky is grounded in local control – as it is in most states – but the Department also appreciates the important role it must play when it comes to education technology," Couch explained. "A strong, centralized shared services approach to edtech helps level the playing field between districts that have internal technology capacity and those that don't, and has yielded incredible benefits, from significantly reducing costs to consistency in technology enabled systems across all districts that are used by all students, teachers and staff to increasing equity and efficacy."

Kentucky was the first state to adopt common, off-the-shelf, statewide student information and financial management systems that every school district is required to use. In 1995, the state was also the first to provide internet access to every school district across the state and the first in the 2010's to migrate all KDE's major technology shared services (e.g., e-mail, financial management, school information, digital content delivery, phone service, etc.) to the cloud for all school districts and all Department agencies. These two moves paid dividends when the state had to respond rapidly to the pandemic. Couch estimates that centralized purchasing of these systems by the KDE has helped reduce the cost to districts by approximately 40-60%. These cost reductions help district budgets, and they also help bridge the digital divide.

"Because our office touches all aspects of edtech from virtual learning to data and infrastructure, we can ensure that all of these systems work together to benefit teachers and make a difference for student learning," continued Couch. "It also means that when the Department develops the state's six-year edtech plan — [the Kentucky Education Technology System Master Plan](#) — it is also able to take a leadership role in implementing it because each district is required by law to have a KDE approved technology plan."

As a result, OET works across the Department, bringing attention to the role education technology can make in the work of other offices. They also collaborate closely with district leaders to support on-the-ground edtech implementation. In fact, beginning in 1992, the Office has hosted a bi-directional, fully collaborative monthly meeting as well as an annual summit with district and school edtech leaders.

Three decades of consistent state edtech leadership has provided direct benefits to the state's educators and students. With this strong foundation in place, KDE's Office of Education Technology is poised to tackle whatever new opportunities and challenges the future — and emerging technologies — may hold.

1. From your perspective, rank the 4 SETDA "EdTech Trends" report key findings.

Key Finding 2: Cybersecurity and Funding to Support Cybersecurity

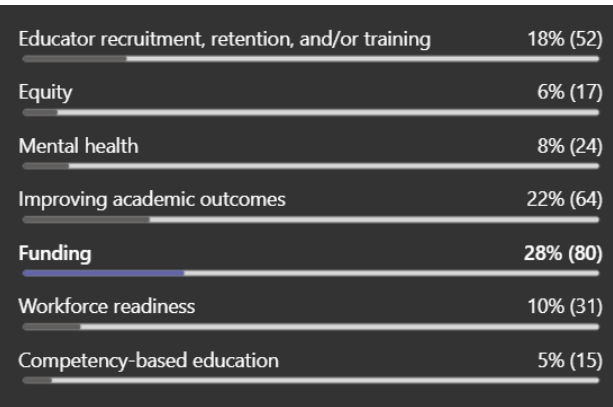
Key Finding 1: meet the demand for more support on the responsib...

Key Finding 3: Anxiety about funding appears to increase as federal ...

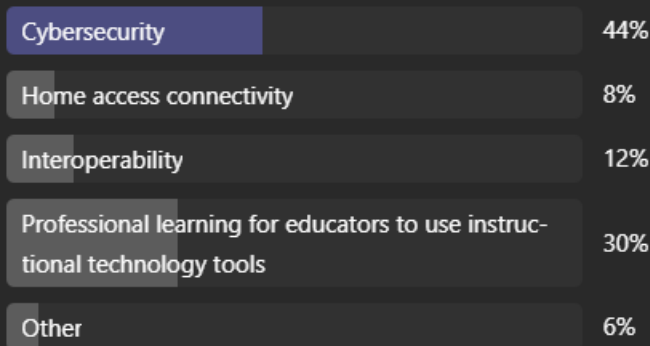
Key Finding 4: ...effective and equitable use of edtech

2. What are your top priorities for education for the coming year?

- Educator recruitment, retention, and/or training
- Equity
- Mental health
- Improving academic outcomes
- Funding
- Workforce readiness
- Competency-based education



3. What are your TOP unmet technology needs in your district?



(23:20) 2024 Technology Activity Report (TAR) and 2024 KY K-12 Digital Readiness Report Update: The TAR currently has 134 submissions and both of these reports had a due date of September 16. These are used for a variety of reasons and in multiple formats each year and they are extremely helpful as we continue to work on increased funding for KETS. The reports are crucial for districts to qualify for financial assistance, with a deadline set for submission to ensure timely distribution of funds and to allow for data quality checks and preparation of the data in the various formats.



(24:40) Education Networks of America (ENA) Press Release: ENA and KDE will be publishing a press release soon about the success and positive impacts of KY K-12 EdTech with an emphasis on the Internet service. This is what KDE's looked like in KY Teacher: [KDE continues improving on nation-leading school internet infrastructure – Kentucky Teacher](#)

(25:14) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:

- Online Registration and Campus Learning has been purchased on behalf of the school districts for this school year. We truly appreciate your patience as we were waiting to hear about our ESSER extension submission.
- The collector will go live tomorrow! The deadline for review and approval of that School Profile Report is October 1, 2024, and this is a really tight timeframe. DeDe shared her screen and reviewed how to access and how to get assistance through the WAAPOC locally if they need assistance or access. AnLar will be providing training on the morning of 9/18 and they'll have office hours for districts to contact them with questions. There will be some additional options and training opportunities in the near future.

(31:24) 10-16-24 KY K-12 CIO & EdTech Leader's Webcast Update: Next month the focus of our webcast will be on the EdTech related resources available to all 171 school districts to help with chronic absenteeism (IC's early warning system) and ways to make instruction a more engaging experience for students (PBS Learning Media through KET, EverFi, KyVL, IT Academy, STLP and EdTech integrations lead by your Digital Learning Coaches). Chief Academic Officers (CAOs) will be invited to join us for these discussions and presentations.

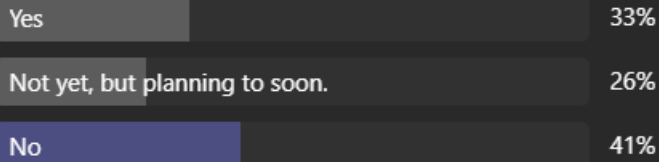
(33:14) The 2023-2024 Stilwell Award: At the September OET Team Huddle David Couch had the privilege to present the Stilwell Award to Elaine Harrison Lane, Jeff Sebulsky, and Charlotte Chowning. The awardees were recognized for their dedication and impact on education technology, reflecting their commitment to enhancing learning experiences in Kentucky. There is one additional award to be presented. This website page has all the information about this award and all those who have received it: <https://www.education.ky.gov/districts/tech/Pages/The-Stilwell-Award.aspx>.



We then went into closed session with just districts and OET staff for the following three topics:

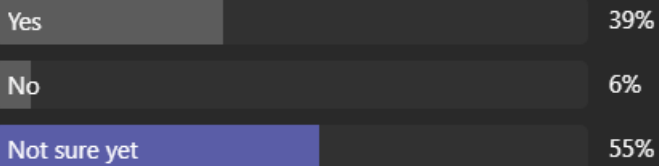
1. Virus protection of KY K-12 computers
2. Healthy data diet for KY K-12 SSNs and KY K-12 email addresses
3. Identity Automation's presentation and discussion regarding the KY K-12 Connected User Experience System (CUES) that will impact every KY K-12 computer and every KY K-12 technology enabled system in KY K-12 districts and every KDE the agency organization.

BONUS: Does your district do phishing tests that evaluates who did and didn't get tricked by a fake phish?



82 responses

5. Will your district use Cybersecurity Awareness Month as a platform to provide additional activities to bring awareness to how everyone is responsible for cybersecurity?



93 responses