Summary of the December 2024 KY K-12 Education
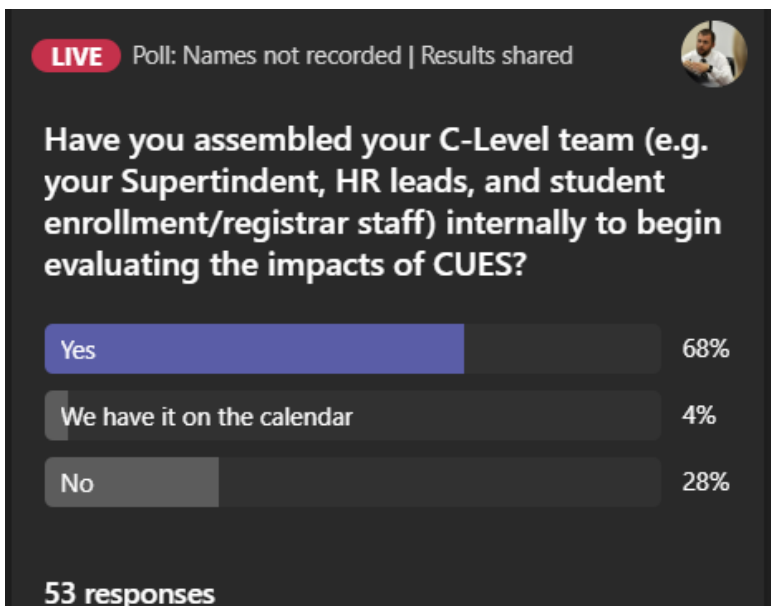# Technology Leaders' Virtual Meeting

In case you missed it or want a refresher, the following is what we talked about during the December 17, 2024, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2024/12/edtech-december-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. Poll questions were posed throughout the meeting and district EdTech leaders were asked to respond 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.

(00:34) Connected User Experience System (CUES) Update: David shared that a similar CUES update will be presented at the 14 January 2025, Superintendent Webcast and encouraged district CIOs & EdTech leaders to have some initial conversations on this initiative with district leadership if they haven't already done so. This webcast will be shared on the KDE Media Portal and available live at 2 p.m. as well as recorded/available in the archive. Chuck has recently spoken at educational cooperatives, but this is another opportunity to ensure Superintendents have a working knowledge of this initiative and how it will impact their district.

CUES Initiative Update: Chuck provided an update on the CUES initiative, highlighting the ongoing communication, efforts in architecture, and the importance of the District Advisory Group's input through their weekly meetings.

- **Architecture Efforts:** Chuck mentioned the significant efforts being applied behind the scenes with architecture to streamline the overall process.
- **District Advisory Group:** Chuck praised the District Advisory Group for their input and thought leadership, which has been instrumental in shaping the CUES initiative.
- **Relieving Pressure:** Chuck emphasized the importance of relieving pressure on school districts by automating as much as possible during the implementation of the CUES initiative.

Chuck explained the concept of identity mapping and assured us all that the identity automation and enablement team would handle it behind the scenes, relieving school districts of this responsibility. Chuck explained that identity mapping involves linking different identities for the same person across

various systems, such as Munis, Active Directory, and Office 365. He also emphasized that the timeline dates for the CUES initiative are targets, not deadlines, and prioritized accuracy over swiftness due to the complexity of the project.

Chuck announced the release of the phase one data normalization guide by the end of the week, apologizing for the delay. Chuck outlined three primary action items in the data normalization guide: forming a C level team, identifying processes and timing for enrollment and hiring, and data stewardship and cleanup. Chuck highlighted the importance of forming a C level team within districts, giving a shout out to Jason Rector for his leadership in Adair County. The following poll question was posed to webcast participants:

Chuck stressed the need for districts to identify and document processes and timing for enrollment and hiring to ensure timely access to technology resources for new students and staff. He mentioned that all Superintendents have agreed on the importance of ensuring that new students and staff have access to technology resources as they enter the learning environment. Chuck also highlighted the importance of studying and improving the timing of onboarding processes to ensure smooth access to technology resources.

Chuck explained the importance of data stewardship and cleanup, mentioning the collaboration with Identity Automation and Infinite Campus staff to ensure data quality. It is critical for districts to clean up data before implementing the CUES initiative and Chuck mentioned the collaboration with Identity Automation and Infinite Campus staff to ensure data quality and proper data mapping. The team has spent significant time reviewing data fields and attributes from Munis and Infinite Campus to ensure accurate provisioning and rostering.

Other CUES Items:
(BTW, we know the word "Superintendent" was accidentally misspelled as "Supertindent" in the poll question results during the December webcast.) Hopefully by January, the answer will 100% versus 68%.
- **Statewide Webcast of Data Cleanup needed for CUES:** Chuck announced a statewide webcast scheduled for the week of January 6th to go over the data normalization guide in detail and provide an avenue for districts to ask questions. (*400 folks joined this session on 6 January*).
- **Baseline Manifest:** Chuck mentioned the unveiling of the baseline manifest, which will be covered during the enablement process with Identity Automation, and the introduction of new cybersecurity standards.
- **Superintendent Communications:** Chuck and David discussed ongoing communications with Superintendents, emphasizing the importance of educating C level staff within districts about the CUES initiative.

(14:04) Read.AI Protocol: David updated webcast participants on the protocol for handling read.ai in meetings, stating that it would be removed from our Microsoft Teams meetings and emphasized the use of Microsoft Teams AI-generated notes for these meeting summaries. Any time you want to use read.ai, please discuss with the meeting host.

(16:33) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:
- KY K-12 School Report Card Suite – DeDe took a few moments to bring up and share the School Report Card site. In doing so, she noted that it will be a soft launch due to some remaining issues and there may/may not be a more formal announcement in January. The performance of the new School Report Card is being monitored to ensure it meets the requirement of a three-second response time. It's been a large undertaking bringing in three years of data and we look forward to receiving your feedback.
- IC's Winterchange on 5-6 December – It was a great event with maxed out capacity!
- Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) – Dede informed the team about the ongoing civil rights data collection, mentioning some issues with data loading and the expected timeline for completion. December 23 was the date that they anticipate it being ready to receive data, but we will keep you informed if that date is revised.

- The federal Generate service – Kentucky continues to be one of the state leaders for this federal reporting and is piloting many of these processes.
- Healthy Data Diet of Student SSNs in IC – Dede announced that Infinite Campus would no longer sync social security numbers from districts up to State Edition, enhancing data protection for students and staff. David sent an email to the director of KYSTATS this week on how we would like to proceed moving forward regarding cybersecurity. We need to remove SSNs that have been kept indefinitely after a student graduates. He is also requested they take a look at the unemployment system as well as taking a look at what other states are doing.
- Mid-year training on January 28th – There is a potential conflict and, if so, we will let everyone know.

(25:16) Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Finances Update:

- Additional Budget Request (ABR) to legislature due in June 2025 – Work has begun with KDE to put together the Office of Education Technology's budget narrative. This work is in preparation for the 2026-2028 biennial budget process with the initial part being due internally in early January. We will be resubmitting the ABR for our baseline increase request from $15.4M to $30M. We gained some traction during the last budget process, but it was not included in the finalized budget. We have been asked to go before the Kentucky Board of Education in February to advocate for making this a KBE priority for the upcoming budget. We can see through the Technology Activity Report (TAR) information that the funding cliff has begun and we will continue to see the effect of this if we aren't able to realize the restoration and/or increase of our KETS baseline. We were trying to position ourselves to be able to continue our services after the COVID funding expired and this funding actually made it more difficult to gain traction for restoring and/or increasing our funding.
- KETS Offers of Assistance for SY 2024-2025 – The total annual offer is $21/ADA and first offers have gone out with a few districts just now completing the 1st offer of $12/ADA. The second offer will be $9/ADA and will occur in the March 2025 timeframe.
- E-rate Awareness Items –
  - Districts need to be preparing for the upcoming application window (no date yet). We've had multiple training sessions and are working on the collection of discount data with a due date of January 10.
  - The cybersecurity pilot initiated through the USF shows that there were about $3.7B applications for that $200M pilot program. We had some districts in Kentucky apply for this pilot and there have been some rumors that the pilot will be nixed. We don't have any confirmation of that and will keep you informed.
- KY K-12 Technology Activity Report (TAR) results for 2024 from Munis - We shared some of the information and slides during last month's webcast and will continue to incorporate this data. The overall spend decreased $56.6M with two major categories impacted—school district internet access (14%) and classroom digital learning (29.2%).

(37:34) Cybersecurity (a/k/a Captain D's) Phish Tank Update - When it comes to phishing emails, receiving an unrequested file is potentially very dangerous but presents itself as a real temptation. There has been a recent phish that began right before the Thanksgiving holiday. Bob Hackworth described the phish that came from a Drop Box account and shared his appreciation to all the districts who helped investigate and remediate this particular phish. If you are not using the caution banner in your district, we highly recommend that you institute this as an immediate and visual cue that something may not be what it seems.

This particular phishing email phished the user out of their login credentials and then also phished their multi-factor authentication (MFA) information. MFA didn't fail in this instance, but it was impacted. Review your audit logs to see what happened when a user was phished—Bob shared the link for this and said it will be added to the "spring cleaning" guide and advocated for districts to reconsider the use of a Drop Box account. If you were or believe your district was compromised, please don't forget that we are required to fill out the state's FAC-001 Form for data breaches. Don't hesitate to reach out to local authorities, beginning with your local School Resource Officer (SRO). K-12 is considered part of the federal infrastructure. We will be talking to our Superintendents on their monthly webcast on January 14th about this topic along with the Digital Readiness data highlights.

(49:26) Overview of Updated OET website at <u>Education Technology - Kentucky Department of Education</u>: David asked for all webcast participants' help in taking a look at the OET portion of the KDE Website. We have made the initial changes/updates as well as making some aesthetic changes. We have three main areas and then sections for upcoming events and hot topics. Are we missing anything? Did we take something out that you feel needs to be there? It will have to be routinely reviewed and updated after this initial work is completed so that the site remains relevant. David spent several moments visiting some of the primary documents and where they are now located on the updated OET web pages. A few additional modifications are being worked on and we have just a few links that are for internal use only with the vast majority of them being publicly available/viewable.

Other Items to Note:
- Status of KY K-12 EdTech contracts and implementations: Keep in mind that we have several projects lined up on the runway.
  - o KY K-12 Internet Content Management System – This is still being worked on and we are confident that we will have a path forward in the near future.
  - o NGKI Initiative will officially close out in January 2025. There will be some work on the implementation effort and this will transition to a service.
- SpeakUp Feedback Update - Part of the digital readiness/digital equity work is the statewide effort to get the student voice aspect that we've had for several years. This year we are working strategically with Project Tomorrow through SpeakUp. We had 26-28 districts respond a few months ago that wanted to be part of that cohort and we've had 10 districts who had begun that work and 16 more that plan to begin soon with the window closing on January 24th. This fits into all of our planning, budget, and master plan work.
- Annual Top 5 Feedback Update - We have just a handful of submissions to go and this feedback is crucial to our work and we appreciate the time you have devoted to complete this effort. While it is not anonymous, we encourage you to be critical in a thoughtful way when you have specific issues/concerns about a submission.
- Update on AI in KY K-12 - Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) meeting results and recommendations on AI were shared with you in today's meeting agenda email and those recommendations will also be going to the legislature as they work to introduce bills around AI.

David thanked everyone for the GREAT effort and accomplishments over this past year. Until you look back you don't realize the sheer amount of things we have completed. Please enjoy the holidays and get some well-deserved rest. We'll see you in 2025!

We posed a very important poll question asking what is your favorite Holiday/Christmas movie? The responses were varied and the Other section was the winner. Those 32 responses were also pretty varied and the chat area was very busy with the comments on this controversial question:

Movie	Percentage (votes)
Elf	7% (8)
Die Hard	19% (22)
Charlie Brown	7% (8)
Rudolf	4% (5)
National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation	27% (30)
Honestly, any movie from the 90's	5% (6)
Other	28% (32)