

Summary of the February 2025 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 February 18, 2025, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2025/02/edtech-february-2025/> .

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.

With the floods we have one school in Pike County that will be closed for a while due to a washed-out access road. The majority of our schools weathered the storm very well and several schools are serving as a community site for those affected by the flooding. Flood waters should be receding but we do have snow and cold temperatures coming. Commissioner Fletcher is working with our legislators as we work through the issues around an extension of NTI days or other ways that our school districts can make up time.

(3:42) VIP/Special Guests – Today we were joined by our STLP Engineer Ambassador Team. Introductions were made and there are a few veteran members who will help familiarize and lead this group. They will be receiving updates on our current initiatives and they'll be very integral to the success of KySTE happening next month. This group is led by Jim Seward. As soon as the school year starts for the 2025-2026 school year, a packet will be available for anyone wanting to apply for the STLP Engineer program next year!

(10:05) KETS Additional Budget Request (ABR) Update - This topic was presented to the KY Board of Education (KBE) in early February 2025 in preparation for the KBE setting their budget priorities for the 2026 legislative/budgetary session. In the previous budgetary planning cycle, the KBE made this a top six priority.

KETS currently receives \$15.4M annually and the request is for an additional \$14.6M per year to bring our KETS allocation to \$30M per year. This is currently a KDE priority and listed as the 5th priority out of 7 that our Commissioner is using in his discussions with legislators.

KETS has been a great steward of taxpayer dollars since 1992 and has realized \$11M in cuts and \$4.5M in cost of living increases not realized (e.g., 5% per year for Munis). The department as a whole has sustained costs since 1992. We have to identify programs and services where we don't have funds to continue funding and we also need to increase our KETS Offers to what they once were. Our current offer is \$21/ADA and we would like to restore this back to \$25 to \$30/ADA (\$1.8M or \$4.3M respectively).

So far, we have identified \$2.3M in state services by OET that must shift to districts to pay for if they want to continue those services beyond June of 2026.

- \$700,000 annually for Kentucky Virtual Library (KVL)

- \$400,000 annually Virus Protection
- \$1,200,000 annually for Microsoft Active Directory (AD)

There have been \$8M in new, unfunded services that have begun since 1992. So, decisions will have to be made on stopping doing these or shifting these costs to other parts of KDE or to school districts. We need you to discuss this with your Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer (CFO), keeping in mind that OET gets significant savings (50% to 100% in most cases) in buying these services for all districts. Districts will not get these 50% to 100% discounts if the district pays for them.

- \$1M annually, KY K-12 School Report Card – This is a federal requirement and OET received no funding to annually pay for this service.
- \$1.5M annually, Infinite Campus state edition– Purchase was funded but not the ongoing annual cost (currently funded through e-Rate rebates).
- \$70K annually, eTranscripts – Allowing students to send transcripts digitally.
- \$1.4M annually IC Campus Learning/Campus Online Registration – We have paid for these to March 2026 using extended ESSER funding mechanisms.
- Microsoft IT Academy – Currently \$700K per year, but we have maximized the use of this service and it continues to grow.
- Etc.

KETS financial assistance offers to districts raised to either \$25 or \$30 per student. Would need \$1.8M or \$2.7M annually to do that. At one time, the KETS offer was \$30 per student but has dropped to \$21 per student over the past years. Would like to get it back up to \$25 or \$30 per ADA to help districts pay for their internal EdTech related operations, maintenance and incremental replacements as well as help pay for cost-of-living increases and growth/expansion of EdTech products and services (e.g., 1 to 1 computer replacements for per student and adults, digital learning coaches, etc.). The KETS offer for SY 2024-2025 is \$21 per ADA. District EdTech leaders annually tell us how crucial this funding source is to them.

We need your assistance. We are championing it and our Commissioner is championing this, but we need YOU and our vendor partners to help us lobby and champion for additional funding to set KETS up for success in the years to come. We have come really close the last few budget cycles, but we need to get across the finish line to ensure the continued successes that the KETS program has realized over the years.

(28:33) EdTech Funding for Districts Update –

- KETS 2nd Offer will begin in March for \$9/ADA; the first offer was \$12/ADA
- E-Rate application window closes March 26, 2025; if you need assistance please reach out

(30:45) KY K-12 GoGuardian Implementation Update – Jody Rose thanked districts for getting their form turned in and shared to be on the lookout for communications from GoGuardian to schedule your transition based on your responses. The amount of time for the actual switchover from LightSpeed to GoGuardian could vary from district to district based on current and needed configurations. The 12 pilot districts will be contacted very soon and then we'll most likely move forward with groups of ten districts. Release of the digital resource room is very close and will serve as a single clearing house. We have done the demonstration video and may soon do another one with a deeper dive. Individual conversations may be needed to address one-off situations as we implement similar to how we addressed this during the MFA project.

Within KDE the agency, we plan to share information about the implementation during the upcoming All Team KDE meeting and will also communicate via email as we move office by office. We do know the implementation will require at least one reboot during the process so that has been taken into consideration.

(42:47) KY K-12 Connected User Experience System (CUES) Update – Chuck Austin provided an update on this large initiative. The data normalization phase was launched during the holiday time

period and all districts should be wrapping this phase up and submitting the checklist; at this point, about one-third of the districts have submitted with the deadline for completion/submission being March 1, 2025. The checklist, as modified, allows you to select your 1st & 2nd choice timeframe for migration to Rapid Identity.

We are now entering a crucial time as we enter a pilot phase for CUES while we still have a pilot phase ongoing for ICM. It's important to understand the CUES pilot involving 16 districts, is specific to enablement and every region is included. Hopkins was the first pilot to begin and all other pilot sites will kick off by March 10 and run through May 2 with each district going through a 10- to 12-week staggered process.

There will be four implementation waves—spring, summer, fall and winter 2025/26 with a target completion date of April 2026. This will allow a few months for final clean-up efforts. There will be a big push on this at the KySTE conference. Identity Automation will have a dedicated room Wednesday and Thursday along with numerous sessions focused on the enablement phase and pilot user testimony. We are also working on a session that will showcase CUES through the eyes of a student.

Rapid Identity Phishing product was discussed as well. We have a good opportunity to close some cybersecurity gaps and provide one more layer of protection that could be vital.

(48:39) KySTE Conference in Louisville on 12-14 March 2025 – We greatly value our relationship with this organization and our edtech leaders at the school/district level. William Pierce, the current KySTE President, joined us today and provided an update on the upcoming KySTE Conference that will be March 12 – 14, 2025 and the Kentucky International Conference Center (KICC). There will be some fantastic announcements made during the closing ceremonies for the conference and we hope you can all make it. William spoke to the information below:

- *“Connecting Minds, Igniting Imagination”*
 - <https://www.kyste.org/events/kyste-spring-conference>
- Over 400 Sessions led by Featured Speakers, KY Educators, and Vendor Partners
 - [Dr. Monica Burns](#) - GenAI for the Classroom
 - [Leslie Fisher](#) - EdTech Tools
 - [Marlo Gaddis](#) - Bolder Leadership & Cybersecurity Practices
- Great Vendor Partner Experiences
 - Google “Gemini Experience” - Similar to ISTE
 - Microsoft/Dell Partnership - Microsoft returns to KySTE 1st time since 2019
 - Apple - New KY Support Team
 - State-Wide Partners - Identity Automation, GoGuardian, and IC
- Over 150 vendors in our InnovatED Expo Hall
 - [InnovatED Expo Hall](#)
 - [Vendor Partners](#)

2025 KY K-12 CIO Summit Potential Topics - This will be the 12th annual K-12 CIO Summit; this summit is invitation only for our CIOs. We currently have 155 respondents for the CIO Summit registration stating they plan to attend! If you haven't registered yet, please do so to ensure that we plan appropriately. You will be seated with seven other CIOs and one OET staff member for the event. Your feedback is crucial to our planning and decision-making for current and upcoming initiatives as we've shown over the last decade.

Proposed topics were introduced and the poll question shown below was launched. Keep in mind that we won't have adequate time to cover ALL topics; however, we may be able to have some dedicated webcasts/discussions on topics we aren't able to incorporate into the summit. Here are the results of the poll question:

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| Additional Budget Request (ABR) for KETS (with Supts, CFOs, Lobbyists) | 11% (33) |
| Artificial Intelligence in K-12 (AI) (SREB Commission & Policy Recommendations) | 14% (40) |
| Cybersecurity shortfall in districts | 22% (63) |
| Internet Safety and Security Reg Updates & Modernizations | 10% (29) |
| Re-Launch of NEW Digital Learning Guidelines | 3% (10) |
| Developing a Statewide Technical Learning (Coach) Network | 7% (21) |
| External Third-Party Review for Data Sharing Agreements and Student Data Privacy | 11% (33) |
| Active Directory (AD)/ Trellix (transitions from legacy systems) | 16% (46) |
| Impact of Expiring ESSER Funds | 3% (10) |