**Summary of the April 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 April 15, 2025, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2025/04/edtech-april-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.
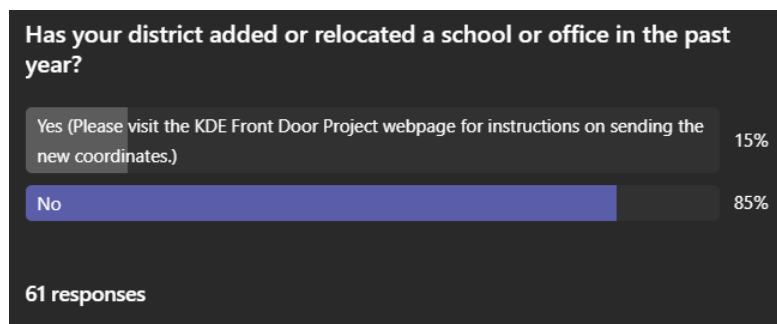
(2:17) 2025 STLP State Championship Final Preparations and Announcements: We are one week away and there is lots of buzz and activity going on to get all the final arrangements and preparations ready!
- STLP State Championship Preparations: Jeff provided final announcements about the upcoming STLP state championship, highlighting the logistics, bus drop-off plans, and the involvement of Lexington Police Department. He also invited those without STLP students to attend the event.

    o **Event Logistics:** Jeff detailed the logistics for the STLP state championship, including the involvement of the Lexington Police Department to manage traffic and bus drop-offs efficiently. He emphasized the importance of ensuring a smooth and safe experience for students and participants.
    o **Bus Parking:** Jeff announced that free parking for buses would be available in the High Street lot across from the Central Bank Center, ensuring convenient and safe access for students. He mentioned that cars and vans would still need to use paid parking lots.
    o **Participation:** Jeff highlighted the participation of 107 districts, over 500 schools, and around 12,000 students in the event. He encouraged those without STLP students to attend and witness the students' technological achievements.
    o **Volunteer Acknowledgment:** David acknowledged the efforts of volunteers, including district staff, state government staff, vendor partners, and district partners, in making the STLP state championship a successful event. This is the best workday of the year!

(9:04) EdTech Professional Learning Events: Marty informed participants about the upcoming EdTech professional learning events scheduled for the summer, including events hosted by various education cooperatives and the digital learning coach network. Check out the current calendar of events at Digital Learning and Leading Events Calendar.
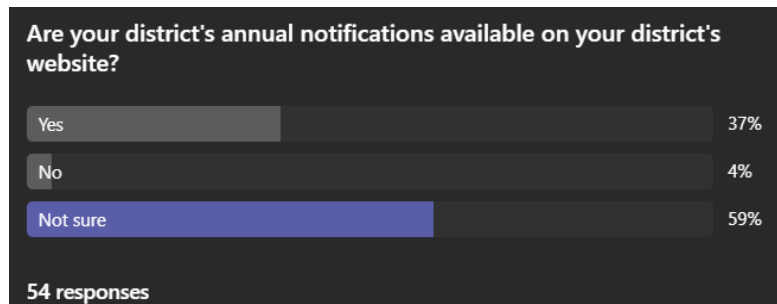
(12:38) 2025 Front Door Collection Update: The window is now open and will remain open through the month for this annual collection that coincides each year with Earth Day, April 22, and can be used as a learning opportunity for students finding their schools on the map. Please ensure the geographic coordinates for all schools and district offices in your district are up to date. If your district has added or relocated a school or office, designate someone to submit the updated coordinates to KDE. Instructions are available on the KDE Front Door Project webpage. Kentucky's K-12 public schools' geographic data is publicly accessible on platforms such as The Commonwealth Map, Kentucky Geoportal, ArcGIS.com, School Report Card, and Open House Directory. Dede reminded districts to update their

front door information, especially if there have been any changes in school or district office locations. She emphasized the importance of having accurate information for emergency response and other purposes.

Has your district added or relocated a school or office in the past year?

Yes (Please visit the KDE Front Door Project webpage for instructions on sending the new coordinates.)	15%
No	85%

61 responses

(13:21) Student Privacy Policy Office (SPPO) Annual Notification Update: The SSPO from the U.S. Department of Education (USDE) sent their <u>annual notification to local educational agencies (LEAs)</u> on March 28, regarding educational agencies' obligations under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) and the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232h; 34 CFR Part 98). The annual notification is required by 20 U.S.C. § 1232h(c)(5)(C). The SPPO Notice includes a new Assurance of Compliance requirement on page 3.

KDE must confirm by April 30 that the State Education Agency (SEA) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) are complying with the provisions of FERPA and PPRA. Annually, each district Superintendent signs the district assurances document that includes the FERPA/PPRA compliance statement. It is a best practice to have these annual notices available in a prominent location on school and district webpages. More information is available via the student privacy website at https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/annual-notices.

Are your district's annual notifications available on your district's website?

Yes	37%
No	4%
Not sure	59%

54 responses

(13:57) School Report Card (SRC) Suite Update:
- The SRC Finance Collection tool is open to district financial officers until May 14 to review district-level finance data, enter school-level spending per student calculations, and enter financial narratives. Finance SRC Domain documentation is available under Other Resources on the <u>SRC Resources</u> web page.
- The SRC Dashboard Financial Transparency will open to districts in late May.
- To help drive future improvements, reach out to the applicable <u>KDE point of contact</u> or submit suggestions through the <u>SRC feedback tool</u>.

(14:50) Kentucky Student Information System (KSIS/IC)/Upcoming Training Opportunities
- House Bill 241: Dede explained the impact of House Bill 241, which allows districts to remove the lowest five or lowest ten attendance days from their SAAR calculations, potentially benefiting district funding. She noted that Infinite Campus is working on implementing this change by late May.
- KSIS/IC End of Year Training will be on April 17.
- IC's Social Security Number (SSN) Purge Tool for KY K-12 school districts for KY K-12 student SSNs in their district's IC system is planned for the May release. Dede announced the upcoming availability of the SSN purge tool in May, encouraging districts to start discussions on how to use

the tool to remove old and unnecessary SSNs from their systems. K-12 organizations are THE top target for cybersecurity criminal activity.

- Classic view will be retired with the July 23 release. All users will be required to use the New Look of Campus.
- Campus annual invoices will be sent at the end of April.
- At this time, districts must arrange for their payment for Campus Learning Management System and Online Registration (OLR) to continue usage beyond 30 June 2025. Infinite Campus initially worked with OET to get a reduced price for a Statewide Solution. To ease the burden for districts, Infinite Campus is offering a reduced price to individual districts for the 25-26 school year. On April 9, Infinite Campus emailed quotes to the district CIOs, DPPs, and KSIS contacts. Districts are requested to respond by May 15 so that contracts can be finalized and invoices issued for these products. You can also reach out to Lisa DeGaris at lisa.degaris@infinitecampus.com.

Training Opportunities: For details on the following training opportunities, go to the KSIS Training webpage.

Date	Title	Training Provider	Location
April 17	KSIS Infinite Campus End-of-Year Ky. Specific Training	KDE Data Governance	Teams
April 16	FERPA 101 and Data Security Best Practices	PTAC	Online
April 23	FERPA 201 and Transparency	PTAC	Online
April 30	Incident Response and Vetting Educational Technology	PTAC	Online

Upcoming OET School Data Services career opportunities:
- Data team analyst
- KSIS/Infinite Campus support team position coming soon

(21:30) Civil Rights Data Collection Update: Thank you to everyone at the school, district and state levels who helped to complete the 2023-2024 Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) reporting. All Kentucky LEAs successfully completed the reporting and we are one of only a few who had 100% participation/completion.

(25:55) District Technology Plans Update:
- SY26 Plan Submission Site opened the week of January 15, 2025, and plans are due from Districts by April 15th.
- Changes for SY26: Districts are no longer asked to provide a pdf copy of the plan as part of the submission, but to submit a URL to the plan that is in one of the following formats: PDF, MS Word or GDoc. Be sure permissions are correct before submitting.
- As of 4/11/25, 54 districts have submitted their SY26 District Technology Plan.

(26:54) KETS Offers of Assistance Update:
- Total SY24-25 Offers of Assistance are $21/ADA
  - 1st Offers of $12/ADA
    - Issued to 171 districts, KSB, KSD and Model Lab for a total of $6,995,263 and all have submitted acceptance documentation
  - 2nd Offers of $9/ADA
    - 3/10/25 - 172 districts/entities issued for a total $5,051,022 with a 5/9/25 due date
    - 3/13/25 - 1 district issued for a total of $2,228 with a 5/12/25 due date
    - As of 4/8/25, 125 districts/KDE Orgs submitted acceptance documentation with funding to districts anticipated the end of April.

(27:29) Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) Test Windows Update: Assessment window opened on April 21, 2025, and will run through June 13, 2025, for elementary, middle, and high schools in the districts based on the current district calendars.

(27:34) Contract & Bid Awareness/Updates:
- Grant Management Application and Planning (GMAP) – There has been a contract award to EMS LINQ LLC, MA-758-2500001027. The award is effective on 3/21/25 with an initial expiration date of 3/20/28. There are five 1yr renewals available with a potential, final expiration of 3/20/33. KDE launched the GMAP system, already in eleven other state education agencies at that time, in Spring 2016 to help districts maximize the use of their grant dollars from federal, non-competitive programs. This system allows school districts to apply for and manage grant applications while providing KDE staff monitoring, approval, and reporting functionality.

(28:03) KY legislative session regs/laws that made it across the finish line that are OET/EdTech related:
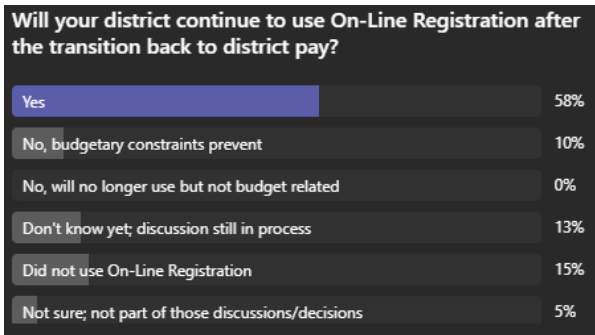- SB4 (AI) – A lot of information has been presented to the legislature over the interim regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and this legislation is primarily regarding/impacting state agencies. We have shared the work of the SREB AI Taskforce; David has shared the CIO Summit feedback with Dr. Pruitt of SREB.
- HB241 (Virtual) – We have covered this in detail in a previous webcast and did not spend additional time on this during this webcast.
- SB181 (Traceable/Inspectable) – As a result of the passage of this legislation, we will incorporate needed revisions in our regulation amendment process that we plan to take before the KBE in December.
- HB208 (Student Smartphones/Social Media) – We understand the social media portion applies only to the students but we would have liked some additional clarity. From the state level, we won't be mandating the social media sites that will or will not be blocked; this is a district-level decision. This will also require some revisions/modernizations to our regulation around sexually explicit materials.

(32:34) Impact to KY K-12 EdTech services for all KY K-12 districts and KDE Organizations Regarding the Loss of $4.3M in Feder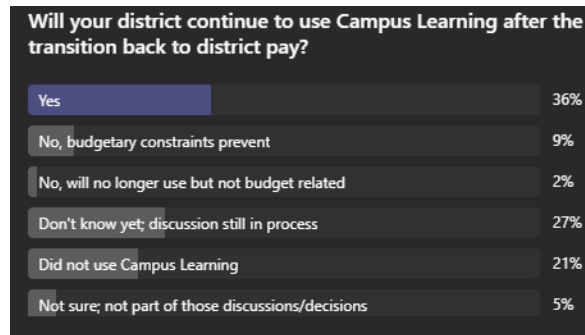al Education Support Funds (aka ESSER) for SY2025-2026: This impacts OET state-shared services to all districts and KDE organizations (e.g., IC online registration, IC Campus Learning, Cybersecurity, CUES, e-Transcripts). KDE received a communication on 3/28 that items previously approved by the USDOE were no longer considered approved as of 5 p.m. on 3/28. Many districts and KDE put money upfront anticipating reimbursement.

David discussed the impact of the $4.3 million cut in federal funding on various projects, including cybersecurity, Infinite Campus services, and e-transcripts. He emphasized the need for districts to plan for potential costs.
- **Impact of Federal Funding Cuts:** Cybersecurity Impact: David highlighted the $3 million impact on cybersecurity projects, including the enhancement of Active Directory with multi-factor authentication, password reset, and detailed reporting. He emphasized the importance of maintaining these defenses despite the funding cuts.
- **Infinite Campus Services:** David discussed the impact on Infinite Campus services, including online registration and campus learning. He urged districts to plan for potential costs and mentioned efforts to secure special pricing for the next school year.

Will your district continue to use On-Line Registration after the transition back to district pay?	
Yes	58%
No, budgetary constraints prevent	10%
No, will no longer use but not budget related	0%
Don't know yet; discussion still in process	13%
Did not use On-Line Registration	15%
Not sure; not part of those discussions/decisions	5%

62 responses

Will your district continue to use Campus Learning after the transition back to district pay?	
Yes	36%
No, budgetary constraints prevent	9%
No, will no longer use but not budget related	2%
Don't know yet; discussion still in process	27%
Did not use Campus Learning	21%
Not sure; not part of those discussions/decisions	5%

56 responses

- **E-Transcripts:** David mentioned the impact on e-transcripts, a valuable service for students applying to higher education institutions. He emphasized the importance of this service, especially for students from low-income backgrounds.
- **Contingency Planning:** David stressed the need for districts to plan for potential costs and consider the impact on their budgets. He mentioned the possibility of using contingency funds or adjusting future offers of assistance to cover the shortfall.

(42:18) Impact to OET and KY K-12 EdTech on the Elimination or Significant Reduction of Federal Agencies/Federal Services: The USDOE is eliminating the USDOE's Office of Education Technology (OET), National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), federal data submission/assistance, and university research-data requests/MOUs. Another possible cut/elimination is the federal CISA cybersecurity services for KY K-12. PBS Learning Media & Kentucky Educational Television KET will be significantly impacted if federal funding for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting, who funds PBS, is cut. For KET, the federal funds are about 14% of their overall budget. This would impact local stations, like KETS and PBS as a whole. There is a current proposal to Congress to remove all $1.1B from the Corporation of Public Broadcasting.

As these are going away, funds are not flowing down to the individual states—it's just going away. Some of these offices and organizations completed vital research and studies that helped us know how Kentucky is doing compared to other states. For organizations that are still there, like FERPA, the people remaining or now there are all new.

KY is one of the top 5 states whose overall government budget relies the most on federal funding aid. Montana leads the states with the highest proportion of federal funding to the overall budget at 31.8%, followed by New Mexico (30.7%), Kentucky (30.1%), Louisiana (29.8%), and Alaska (29.0%). Which states rely the most on federal aid? | USAFacts

Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) External Vulnerability Scans: Bob highlighted the importance of the CISA external vulnerability scans and the potential impact of federal cuts on this service. About 1200 positions or about 1/3 of the CISA staff are looking to be removed. Threat detection services we currently receive from CISA have not gone away and we've received no notification that it will.

- **Service Importance:** Bob emphasized the importance of the CISA external vulnerability scans in identifying and mitigating potential security threats. He noted that this service has been crucial in preventing data breaches in the past.
- **Federal Cuts Impact:** Bob discussed the potential impact of federal cuts on the availability of the CISA external vulnerability scans. He expressed concern about the ability to continue this service without federal support.
- **District Interest Poll:** Bob mentioned a poll question to gauge district interest in continuing the CISA external vulnerability scans if they become a paid service. He highlighted the importance of understanding district priorities and willingness to invest in cybersecurity.
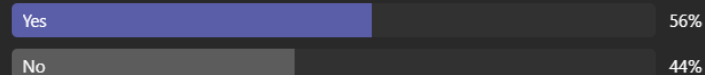
(56:01) E-Rate Funding and Supreme Court Hearing: David provided an update on the E-Rate funding applications and the potential impact of the Supreme Court hearing on the program. He emphasized the importance of E-Rate eligible contracts for Kentucky K-12.

- **Funding Applications:** David reported that Kentucky K-12 school districts have applied for $44 million in E-Rate funding for the next fiscal year, with KDE applying for an additional $10 million. He emphasized the significance of these funds for maintaining high-speed internet services.
- **Supreme Court Hearing:** David discussed the potential impact of the Supreme Court hearing on the E-Rate program. He mentioned that the outcome of the hearing could affect the availability of E-Rate funds and the importance of monitoring the situation closely. Supreme Court Appears Unlikely to Strike Down School E-Rate Program; it is the expectation that the Supreme court will make their ruling in June.
- **Contract Importance:** David stressed the importance of E-Rate eligible contracts for Kentucky K12, highlighting that these contracts are crucial for securing funding and maintaining essential services.

(58:12) KY Court of Appeals Case – KCNA vs. OpenFiber: This case is regarding the 2017 contract between Kentucky Communications Network Authority (KCNA) and OpenFiber (aka Accelecom). An appeal to the KY Court of Appeals was filed on March 20th by OpenFiber (aka Accelecom). You may follow the case at Case View 2025-CA-0354 | C-Track Public Access. The main reason we are bringing this to your attention is that we are awaiting a ruling on the appeal and the impact it may have. David and other OET/KDE staff have been following these proceedings very closely and staying in communication with ENA and KCNA.

(59:28) GoGuardian Transition: Jody Rose and Mike Leadingham discussed the progress of the GoGuardian transition, the importance of timely scheduling and completion, and the value-added services offered by GoGuardian.

- **Transition Progress:** Jody reported that the GoGuardian transition is progressing well, with the first districts approaching and crossing the finish line. He emphasized the importance of timely scheduling and completion to ensure access to support and resources.
- **Scheduling Importance:** Jody highlighted the need for districts to adhere to their scheduled training and implementation timelines. He used the analogy of a busy restaurant to illustrate the importance of keeping to the schedule to ensure smooth transitions for all districts by our 1 July deadline.
- **Value-Added Services:** Mike mentioned that GoGuardian is offering value-added services at competitive prices. He encouraged districts to consider these additional services to enhance their overall experience with GoGuardian.
- **STLP Event Participation:** Jody and Mike noted that GoGuardian representatives would be attending the STLP event to better understand the needs and achievements of Kentucky K-12 students and educators. We appreciate their effort to be a strong partner.

(1:10:39) Other Items to Note:

- Reminder: Originally announced in Oct 2024, the transition of virus protection for Microsoft Windows computers from an OET shared service to districts no later than 1 July 2026. Upcoming special webcast on this topic.
- Reminder: Upcoming special webcast on the transition of OET's shared services completely off of Microsoft Active Directory NLT December 2026.
- Go Teach Kentucky Website - OET staff has received many accolades for their assistance in getting this site revamped. Go check it out at https://goteachky.com/.
- KEPS – KDE was current able to talk with the right folks and will be requesting funding in the next legislative session to replace this system. David reiterated that the number one complaint is that the vacancy data is not kept up to date and results in confusion and frustration.
- Reminder – Leases that need approval are technology leases above $100K. There is a legal form and process available. This information is available at https://www.education.ky.gov/districts/tech/Pages/District%20Lease.aspx.

(1:14:19) CIO Summit Feedback – We are finishing up sharing the feedback, recommendations, and major themes from the 23 tables of KY K-12 CIOs that were covered last month at the KY K-12 CIO Summit at the annual KY K-12 EdTech Conference hosted by KySTE (now called the Kentucky Association for School Technology (KAST)). The topics covered were KY K-12 cybersecurity and KY K-12 Internet safety. Each presenter reviewed their topic using the full "One Big Idea" Document. We have provided some overall comments for each topic, but discussion was specific to the full feedback document. Following along on the audio while accessing the document might be helpful. See Part 2 of the attached Word document.

Topic #3 - Maximizing Cybersecurity Opportunities in K-12 Districts
Note: A portion of this was covered last month and we picked back up with question 3.

Keeping in mind there's no pile of money to purchase new services to shrink the cybersecurity gap, there are still features, functions and services that can increase security. KETS has required a number of statewide security upgrades over the past several years to increase our security posture and set a more modern security baseline given the onslaught of cyberattacks. Items such as MFA, SSPR, SSO have been a part of our baseline for a while, but we'd like to add a few more things, many of which your district may already be doing. We want to standardize the stuff that matters across the state/in every district.

Guiding Questions:

3.   Are you finding value with CISA external vulnerability scans?   Yes/No
4.   Tell us the best security big idea from your table that you've implemented that you believe could and should be implemented across KY K12.

- CIO Summit Feedback on Cybersecurity:
    - The CISA scans are showing value and Bob has reached out to Colin Glover at the national level. A special webcast will be scheduled with Colin Glover to explain the CISA external vulnerability scanning service reports to districts.
    - The best security idea questions brought forth a lot of great ideas; however, Phishing Campaigns & Training bubbled to the top as tables submitted their feedback. Codifying some of the "ranked" items covered last month was also a popular answer. Bob covered several of the table responses as shared in the attachment (in no particular order).

- - Humor and engagement are really important when addressing and training on cybersecurity issues.

Topic #4 - Internet Safety & Security Regulation–Updates & Modernization

We will continue to work with KSBA through the process (and help where we can) as they release their annual model policy package. <u>Collaboration will continue through April with a model policy release to districts scheduled in May.</u> We believe this to be an iterative process over the next couple of years. The current "on the books" KSBA model policy has stood fairly stable for many years, but it took a couple of early years to get it in its current stable state. We believe we are in a similar moment again. Nothing is broken, but it needs to be modernized to include RUP, Cellphones, Social Media and AI.

Components we are working on including:

1. *Responsible Use: RUPs encourage positive behavior and aim for responsible digital citizenship as opposed to outlining what users cannot do through restrictions only and are compliance-focused.*
2. *An Opt Out framework:*
3. *Emerging Technologies (such as AI)*
4. *Internet content management aiding in the protection of instructional uses during instruction hours.*
5. *Student cell phone usage (HB208) - The policy shall, at a minimum, prohibit a student's use of a personal telecommunications device during instructional time, except during an emergency. if directed to do so by a teacher for an instructional purpose, or if authorized by a teacher.".*
6. *Other than KETS email standards, district approved inspectable & traceable electronic communications technologies (SB181)*

More details: The KSBA model policy is very connected to the administrative regulation, <u>701 KAR 5:120</u>. Due to the legislatively required review period, that regulation was just <u>recertified by</u> the Kentucky Board of Education. It was recertified without modification due to bills that were filed (<u>HB 208</u>, etc.) in Regular Session 2025 which could impact the explicit language in the statutes that promulgates the language in the reg (<u>158.165</u> and <u>156.675</u>). We are hearing that this bill will pass through, with near certainty. Per normal processes, bills often take on committee substitutes as they move through the legislative process and change a bit before they become law. We believe HB 208 has a high likelihood of passing. Long story short, this bill has a high chance of impacting the regulation and therefore impacting the KSBA model policy. We are watching it very closely and stand ready to work with KSBA to help them implement the moment we know the outcome of the bill.

Guiding Questions:
1. Responsible Use: Are you in favor of modernizing responsible use policies in the formal KAR and KSBA model policy? Why/Why not?
2. Formally adding an Opt Out model: Historically, districts have operated in an opt in model (getting everyone to sign something every year), does it help your annual processes to explicitly offer an opt out model (restricting access for only the students who submit an opt out form) for your students?
3. Providing for the safe, secure, and responsible use (including ethical uses) of emerging technologies (such as artificial intelligence), - Are you in favor of including emerging technologies (such as AI) in your model policy from KSBA, as opposed to creating a completely separate AI policy?
4. Prohibiting Cell Phone - How will your teachers react to this? Will your students understand it?
5. District approved inspectable & traceable Electronic Communications Technologies (SB181) - Beyond email, are you currently set up to have your schools ONLY use other approved inspectable & traceable digital communications tools? If not, how big of a lift will this be for you?

- Internet Safety and Security Regulations: Marty summarized the feedback from the CIO summit on internet safety and security regulations, including responsible use policies, opt-out models, emerging technologies, and the impact of recent legislation on cell phones and social media.
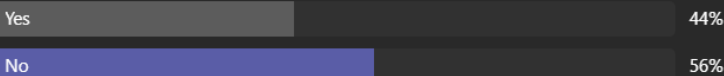
- o Responsible Use Policies: Marty reported strong support for modernizing responsible use policies to include emerging technologies and data security considerations. He emphasized the need for adaptable language to keep policies current.
- o Opt-Out Models: Marty noted that most tables supported the adoption of an opt-out model for student technology use, citing benefits such as simplified administration and faster provisioning of accounts and devices.
- o Emerging Technologies: There is strong support for adding policy considerations for emerging technologies into the existing acceptable/responsible use policies and keeping it general enough to provide flexibility.
- o Prohibiting Cell Phone Usage: This is currently in HB208 and the feedback at the table, while mixed, was generally supportive to prohibiting cell phone usage for students. Students will largely have a negative impact initially but could shift after implementation (based on additional feedback received since the CIO summit). Concern that other devices will still bring challenges and need to be addressed.
- o Traceable/Inspectable Communications: SB181 contains provisions around districts developing a district communications plan where all communications with students are traceable and inspectable. This had a mixed impact among the table discussions and could present some significant challenges for our districts. The term used multiple times was "heavy lift".

Do you already prevent access to "social media" sites for your STUDENTS?

Yes	97%
No	3%
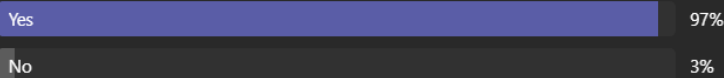
38 responses

Do you already prevent access to "social media" for your ADULT groups?

Yes	44%
No	56%

59 responses