

Summary of the May 2025 KY K-12 Education Special Technology Leaders' Virtual Meeting

In case you missed it or want a refresher, the following is what we talked about during the May 8, 2025, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/district-technology-leadership-webcast/2025/06/special-ky-k-12-cio-webcast-may-8-2025/>.

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.

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.

This was a special webcast for the districts, the appropriate OET staff, and the appropriate GoGuardian staff. Much work is taking place to make this implementation a success amid the many other competing priorities for our district CIOs and EdTech leader's time and attention. The pace of a project like this can sometimes lead to the need for adjustments and updates to keep everyone informed and on a path for success.

Before focusing on the GoGuardian Admin project this morning, we very briefly covered the following important, time sensitive topics:

(2:51) #STLP25STATE STLP State Championship Recap:

David discussed the STLP State Championship held on April 23rd at Rupp Arena, highlighting the participation of various districts and schools. He mentioned the top 20 projects and the upcoming visits to state champions. Next year's event is scheduled for Friday, April 24th so be sure and put that on your calendar.

- **Event Details:** David described the STLP State Championship held on April 23rd at Rupp Arena, noting that it occupied more floor space than any other event at the venue. He highlighted the participation of various districts and schools, with around 25,000 attendees.
- **Terrific Top 20 Projects:** David listed the top 20 projects from the championship, including schools from Crittenden County, Fayette County, Graves County, Union County, Jefferson County, Somerset Ind, Bourbon County, Clark County, Hazard Ind, Boyd County and Russell Ind. He emphasized the impressive achievement of narrowing down from 5000 projects.
- **Elite 8 and State Runner-ups:** He also covered those that made it on to the Elite Eight (Ashland Middle School, Fayette STEAM Academy, JCPS' Meyzeek Middle School and JCPS' Bloom Elementary).
- **Final 4 and State Champions:** David announced upcoming visits to state champions, including Russell Independent High School, JCPS' Fairdale High School, JCPS' Kammerer Middle School and Boyd County's Summit Elementary School, to celebrate their achievements. He mentioned the Dave Sigler Award won by Russell High School for the best overall pure technical project.

(7:19) KCNA and Open Fiber (aka Accelecom) as it relates to KY K-12 Internet service (NGKI via ENA/Zayo): [Kentucky's middle-mile network is set to go dark, disconnecting thousands of residents | StateScoop](#), [Case View 2025-CA-0354 | C-Track Public Access](#) and [download](#). David addressed the situation between the Kentucky Communication Network Authority (KCNA) and Open Fiber (d/b/a Accelecom). He explained the court ruling and its implications for Kentucky K-12 Internet.

- **Disagreement Details:** David explained the serious disagreement between KCNA and Open Fiber (d/b/a Accelecom), which began dramatically escalating in January 2025. He discussed the court

ruling by the Kentucky Court of Appeals. See links above for access to the ruling and the national article that came out that captures this situation well.

- **Implications:** David outlined the implications for Kentucky K12 Internet, stating that if Accelecom is unsuccessful in court, then ENA by Zayo will either need to get a different subcontractor or do that work themselves. This would not be a quick transition. Our most recent transition from KIH3 to ENA/Zayo was an 18–24-month process.
- **Notices:** David mentioned that Accelecom has sent notices to two districts but clarified that these notices do not affect the primary Kentucky Department of Education Internet hub in the 171 districts and 3 KDE organizations. Only optional services purchased through Accelecom are impacted and we are only aware of two districts receiving notices.

(13:07) Kentucky's Online Summative Assessment (KSA) Testing Update: David mentioned the ongoing online summative assessments and the high percentage of completion expected next week. He noted the timing impact on the GoGuardian implementation and the immediate collection of devices after testing.

- **Assessment Completion:** David stated that a high percentage of the online summative assessments are expected to be completed next week, with minimal makeup testing required.
- **Device Collection:** David explained that devices will be collected from students almost immediately after testing is completed.

(14:49) KDE's Reconsideration Request to USDOE for \$4.3M in Federal Education Support Funds (aka ESSER) for SY2025-2026 for OET shared services to all districts and KDE organizations (e.g., IC Online Registration, IC Campus Learning, Cybersecurity, CUES, eTranscripts): David informed the participants about the reconsideration of \$4.3 million in federal funding by the USDOE that was previously approved but denied as of March 28, 2025.

- **Funding Reconsideration:** David discussed the reconsideration of \$4.3 million in federal funding by the US Department of Education, which was previously approved but is now being denied. He mentioned the impact this would have on the Office of Education Technology for the cybersecurity defense systems, online registration/campus learning, and other projects.
- **Low Approval Probability:** David expressed the low probability of approval for the funding, given the tone and context of the number of applications received and discussions with the US Department of Education.

(16:19) GoGuardian Special Discussion: OET staff were joined by the GoGuardian team for this portion of the webcast. Below are bullet points regarding the project as shared by David Couch via email in preparation for today's special webcast. Please refer to the video for specifics of the items discussed today by GoGuardian, OET staff, and district CIOs.

- (1) By a 1998 KY state law, every district must have and use a basic Internet Content Management System (ICMS) for all their KY K-12 students and for all their KY K-12 adults when using any district or state paid for computer and/or when using any state or district paid for/provided wired or wireless Internet service.
- (2) KDE/OET provides, at no cost, to any district that wants it, a basic KY K-12 ICMS product/service, from the vendor that wins our KY K-12 ICMS RFP, which is identified through a KDE RFP every 10 years. In the latter part of 2024, GoGuardian's Admin product competed against a variety of ICMS vendors, including Lightspeed who won the previous 10-year contract for our KY K-12 ICMS from July 2015-July 2025.
- (3) In January 2025, OET announced and focused an entire KY K-12 district CIO webcast on GoGuardian's Admin product and service since they had officially won that RFP to be the KY K-12 ICMS for the next 10 years. Go to [EdTech: January 2025 | KDE MEDIA PORTAL](#)). We also provided a demo of the GoGuardian Admin product: Go to [link](#).
- (4) That means KDE stops 100% paying for Lightspeed's Filtering product as the KY K-12 ICMS for all districts on 1 July 2025 and begins 100% paying for GoGuardian's Admin product as the KY K-

12 ICMS on 1 July 2025. Any KY K-12 district wanting to continue to use the Lightspeed Filter product or any other product as their ICMS for filtering after 1 July 2025, must get an approved waiver from KDE and then must 100% locally pay (e.g., SEEK funds) for that Lightspeed product or other product beginning on 1 July 2025.

- (5) Districts have had a lot of ways and many opportunities since January 2025 to get familiar with the GoGuardian Admin product.
- (6) KDE the agency and close to 40 KY K-12 school districts now have the ability to use GoGuardian's Admin product as their KY K-12 ICMS.
- (7) For each of the remaining districts intending to have the availability of the GoGuardian Admin product in your district before 1 July 2025, OET and GoGuardian needs closure on identifying the specific date your district will be switched to where GoGuardian's Admin is available to your district.
- (8) None of OET's paid Lightspeed Filter service for any district will work after 30 June 2025 because the KY K-12 Internet Content Management System (ICMS) contract ends that day and OET no longer 100% pays for Lightspeed Filter product for any district or KDE organization beginning on that day. OET starts 100% funding the GoGuardian Admin product for districts that day.
- (9) The GoGuardian Admin product will not work with the Lightspeed Filter client loaded on any computer. Lightspeed has been kind enough to provide KY K-12 districts and KDE a Lightspeed client removal tool, for a limited amount of time, to remove their Lightspeed Filter client from Chromebooks, Windows, and MacOS devices. The availability of that tool made a huge positive difference in the time it took to transition all the computers in KDE the agency from Lightspeed to GoGuardian.
- (10) The Lightspeed hardware device will need removed from the Kentucky Education Network (KEN) rack in the district after 30 June 2025 since it is no longer the KY K-12 product standard for ICMS. We'll discuss who removes the Lightspeed hardware from the KEN rack and where that Lightspeed hardware device goes after that.
- (11) We'll discuss what happens and what options you may have if you want the GoGuardian Admin product and service available to your district but didn't get transitioned before 1 July 2025 but you want to have the GoGuardian service available before students and the teachers/staff start arriving in August on your campus.
- (12) As always, districts must 100% locally pay for optional products that go beyond the basic ICMS like GoGuardian's Beacon and Teacher.

David concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and efforts. He reiterated the importance of the June 30th cutover date and the ongoing support from GoGuardian.