

Summary of the June 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 June 17, 2025, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2025/06/edtech-june-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.

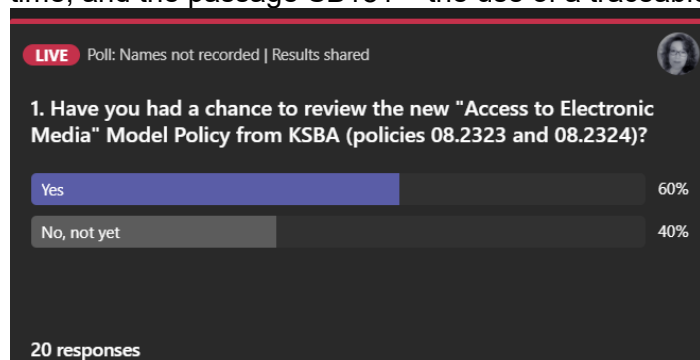
(1:23) KY K-12 EdTech Funding Updates:

- **KDE's reconsideration request to the US Dept of Education (USDOE)** was denied by the 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, e-Transcripts). In this last round of reconsiderations, close to 100% of the resubmissions were denied and those approved for schools and/or KDE the agency have been very minimal. KDE may plan to join with other states or independently take legal action for the use of those funds.
- **The US House voted last week to eliminate all funding for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting.** This would most likely impact the funding that provides (a) the PBS Learning Media service that is used by a high percentage KY K-12 schools, (b) the PBS programs for students and (c) the Kentucky Educational Television (KET) programs for KY K-12 schools and KY homes. This would have a devastating impact on KET. The US Senate votes on it next and this could have a major instructional impact on KY K-12 schools.
- **The Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) was selected by the KY Board of Education (KBE) as one of their Top 5 funding priorities for the 2026 legislative session.** KETS was selected as the #4 priority and we are very encouraged. It was reassuring to have Lee Todd and former Superintendents who sit on the board being very supportive of our additional budget request. We again ask that you help prioritize the KETS funding with your Superintendent and any other groups where you have the opportunity to discuss budgetary needs of your schools and districts. SEEK will always be a #1 funding priority, but supporting the KETS funding is crucial.
- **SY2025-2026 KETS Operational Plan** is presented annually to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) normally during the August meeting. This year we will be presenting this on August 7th during the KBE meeting. We are currently preparing those materials and will present them at our next OET Team Huddle as well as our July EdTech Leaders' District Webcast.

(7:31) Policy, Strategy and Legislation Updates:

- **Update on status of study of KY Dept of Education (KDE) by Ky Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) and the Public Consulting Group (PCG).** We received the preliminary report June 6. The agency has until June 23 to prepare a response on behalf of the department as a whole. We'll share more when the report is publicly released.
- **Update on the KY School Board Association (KSBA) and the KY K-12 Responsible Use Policy (RUP).** In recent weeks, the KSBA has modified the model policies for Access to Electronic Media (AUP). Modifications centered around the recognition of Responsible Use, emerging

technologies in AI, HB208 – recognizing restrictions around use of cellphones during instructional time, and the passage SB181 – the use of a traceable communication system.



The second policy (08.2324) is focused solely on provisions within SB181 passed during the 2025 regular session. The nudge today is to take a few moments to review these policies. Districts can use these policies as written or they have the flexibility to customize them.

- **Update on 2025's Senate Bill 181** as it relates to traceable communication system when KY K-12 adults are digitally communicating to KY K-12 students. The links are to articles regarding this topic and several of the applications that are permissible. The intent was not to limit it to one tool, rather it will be a suite of tools and the intent was to protect communications with students; there have been some extreme interpretations.
 - [Ky. educators react to new law barring staff from contacting students outside permitted apps,](#)
 - ['There's still more work to be done' | Oldham Era | pmg-ky1.com,](#)
 - [JCPS to implement Kentucky law requiring traceable communication when contacting students | Education | wdrb.com,](#)
 - [EKY lawmakers, school staff discuss Senate Bill 181,](#)
 - [New bill in Kentucky bans school staff from contacting students via social media | News | wevv.com](#)

We mainly hit on the accurate themes in these 5 articles. These included:

1. Follow the intent and spirit of the law versus pursuing an extreme interpretation that shuts down nearly every existing constructive district provided technology enabled service (e.g., Google Classroom). If one listened as this law was being created, you can easily identify its intent was not to go to the extremes. The articles above, especially the first two, capture intent.
2. The district's adults and/or the district's students using their personally owned e-mail accounts to communicate with each other, personally owned Smartphones to text message each other and/or their personally owned social media/chat accounts to direct message each other is 99%+ of the inappropriate line between adult and student being crossed by using one, two or all three of these techniques. These are the major targets of the law, since there is zero way for district or school staff to get into and inspect the content of the communications between student and adult when one or both use personally owned email/text/social media/chats.
3. This inspectability and traceability is why KY's 1998 KY K-12 Internet Safety and Security law (SB230) that is still in effect today, requires districts to use a KETS product standard for email communications between students and adults rather than personally owned email accounts.
4. Districts may have a suite of communication tools, not just one.
5. Districts make that choice on the tools and interpretation of the law. Talk with each other.
6. The traditional tools of the district provided email systems and Infinite Campus's (IC) communication service continue to be appropriate to use. We provided training on the IC communication service to districts on 24 June.

All of that being shared, districts will read and make varying selections and decisions. SB181 goes into effect on June 27th and districts are working through these decisions. Consistency is one of the biggest areas and identifying the authorized tools for use in the district is important. Also, each district has to have a plan in place to review and approve exceptions and there will be differences among our districts as they work through this process and make decisions regarding the communications plan to be used in their environment.

DeDe shared that there have been many questions on the use of Infinite Campus (IC) and they are giving training on June 24th regarding the use of the IC Messenger Tools if it is selected as one of the suite of communication tools.

(27:59) KY K-12 EdTech Services and Projects Updates:

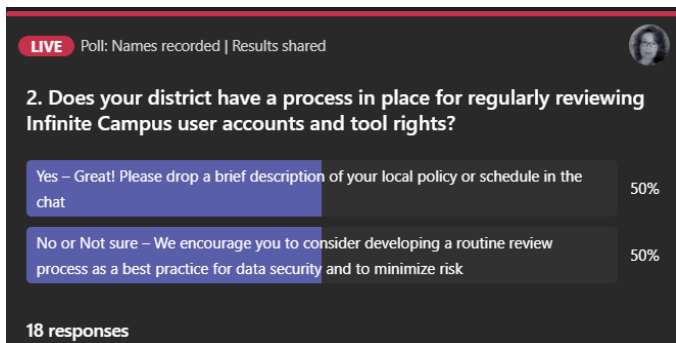
- **Update on the KY K-12 Internet Management System implementation (aka transition to GoGuardian) in KY K-12 organizations.** Jody provided an update on the GoGuardian implementation, mentioning that most districts have switched their DNS services to GoGuardian. Fourteen (14) districts have waived saying they are using something at this time but that will likely change with a high percentage of those 14 districts over the next 12 months. We should have an approved waiver on file and you should have already worked with that alternate provider to ensure you are in a state of compliance as of July 1. Lightspeed's Smartshield servers are being powered down about a week after DNS services are switched over, but do not forget to run those final reports before powering down those devices. We continue to work with GoGuardian on a number of topics—application updates to improve reporting, troubleshooting tools/statistics, DNS version 2.0 on premise (beta), etc. We are also working to revamp the "office hours" concept to continue support/assistance as the beginning of school approaches; the projected date for that to begin is July 22nd and this service would run through September.

David thanked everyone for the great progress in such a short period of time. We are at 92% of the KY K-12 organizations that have switched over to GoGuardian right now and that's phenomenal. We expect a high percentage of that remaining 8% will transition over as well within the next 12 months. We hope that the increased functionality will lead the remaining districts who requested a waiver to make the transition. Jody Rose and Jennifer Devine were applauded for all their efforts in making this project such a big success. And to our district CIOs...thank you. We know that the list of other tasks you have going on beyond this transition is extremely long, especially over the summer months.

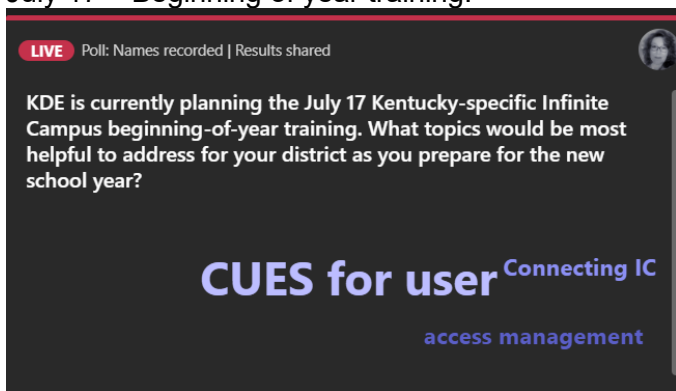
- **KY K-12 Firewall service's role in Internet filtering.** Matt discussed the firewall service role in Internet filtering, mentioning the option to block adult content at the firewall level. He provided details on the process and the upcoming implementation for districts that opted in. It's in test mode and will be put in place on June 24 for districts that had opted in previously. If you weren't opted in before, a communication will be sent out that will show you how to submit a ticket to our KETS Help Desk so that this service can be put in place for your district.
- **Windows 10 Reminder:** Windows 10 goes end of support on October 14, 2025!
- **Update on the transition from Microsoft Active Directory to the KY K-12 Connected User Experience System (CUES) with Identity Automation in all 171 districts and 3 KDE organizations.** There are 43 districts in Cohort #1 and there are a lot of activities going on for those districts—this cohort is split into two groups. On the technical side, Identity Automation has successfully tested the Active Directory password sync and John Logan is also testing the user experience as part of the project. We are moving forward and it is green-light all the way!
- **Kentucky's Online Summative Assessment (KSA) Testing.** David celebrated the success of the Kentucky Summit of online testing, which set a new state record for the number of tests given. He acknowledged the efforts of all involved in making this achievement possible.

(44:11) Other Items to Note:

- School Report Card will open soon. Just as a reminder, the SRC opens up in phases and this first phase will be School Safety with some new trending points available.
- Please review your information within Open House; lots of changes happen over the summer and you don't want to miss important communications.



- Online Registration and Campus Learning will sunset on June 30th; a majority of districts have chosen to continue these on their own.
- SB19 – Moral instruction service providers are being added into IC to assist with the requirements in this legislation
- SB241 – IC modifications are also being made to assist with the requirement of this legislation and we will be ready to share more soon.
- July 17 – Beginning of year training.



- KETS Annual Vendor Partner Meeting is July 9th.