

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

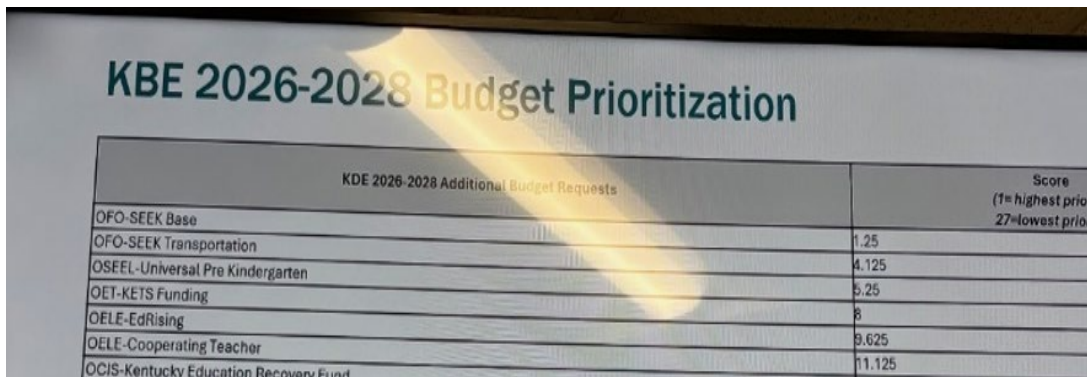
In case you missed it or want a refresher, the following is what we talked about during the July 15, 2025, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2025/07/edtech-july-2025/>.

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.

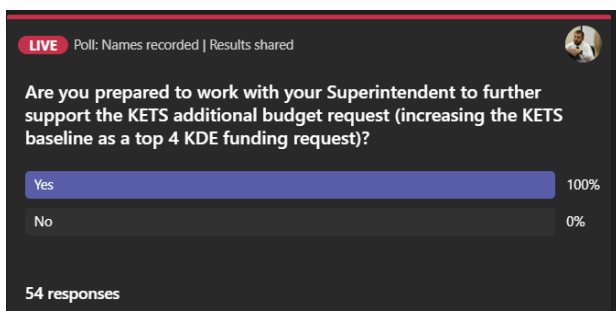
This was a joint meeting with our OET staff and all the districts joining via Microsoft Teams and/or YouTube. We will continue to make these available from our KDE media portal so that you can watch the archived discussion and share with the appropriate people in your district. Poll questions were posed 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.

(1:11) KY K-12 Education Technology Finances Update –

- KETS was identified by the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) as a top 5 funding priority going into the January 2026 legislative session.** You may view the presentation of the KBE budget priorities beginning at the 1 hour 53 minute mark of the June 5 meeting at the following link [Kentucky Board of Education Meeting – June, 2025 | KDE MEDIA PORTAL](#). Our current KBE membership has a high percentage of members with education backgrounds and we are very pleased that their survey results put us as a priority. We now need everyone to step up and champion this request for an additional \$14.6M per year—district staff, Superintendents, vendors, etc. This is behind the scenes work of the department, so it's amazing that we have been escalated in the priority ranking. KDE is not permitted to hire lobbyists, so we all need to lobby for these additional funds to help secure the success of the KETS program moving forward.



KDE 2026-2028 Additional Budget Requests	Score (1= highest prior 27=lowest prior)
OFO-SEEK Base	
OFO-SEEK Transportation	1.25
OSEE-Universal Pre Kindergarten	4.125
OET-KETS Funding	5.25
OELE-EdRising	8
OELE-Cooperating Teacher	9.625
OCIS-Kentucky Education Recovery Fund	11.125



2. **We were informed on June 27 that the \$4.3 million in ESSER federal dollars for KETS projects (e.g., \$3M for KY K-12 CUES/Cybersecurity) has been restored.** ESSER Liquidation Update | AASA We had planned to cease paying for Infinite Campus On-Line Registration and Campus Learning; however, with this recission, we are now able to pay for those for an additional school year. We were able to stop the sunset that was scheduled for close of business on June 30. We are also going to attempt to go ahead and pay for the full year for Cyber Security and CUES and also take a look at eTranscripts. We have to move forward like it's really happening.
3. **Also on June 27, found out the US Supreme Court supports the E-rate program to continue to provide E-rate discounts/rebates as they do now to KY K-12 school districts and state department of education Internet services to district like ours in OET.** Supreme Court upholds Universal Service Fund for internet, phone, Supreme Court upholds FCC broadband fund - Live Updates - POLITICO. David shared the good news about the Supreme Court's decision to uphold the Universal Service Fund that funds the E-rate program. This ruling ensures continued support for schools, libraries, and service providers. This is a BIG win for us and Kentucky has been one of the few states who have maximized this program from the beginning and it has greatly enhanced the KETS program.
4. **USDOE announces holdup of \$87M in previously approved Title funds to KY K-12.** This release of Congressionally approved funds has been put on hold. This will have a devastating impact on our schools and districts and from an education technology perspective we will see an impact for funding/salaries for KY K-12 Digital Learning Coaches. This may also extend to stipends for School Technology Coordinators and STLP Coaches.
5. **July 15th, US Senate votes on whether to eliminate 100% of the funding for the Corporation of Public Broadcasting,** which provides a substantial amount of annual funds for Kentucky Educational Television (KET) and PBS Learning Media used by a high percentage of KY K-12 schools. We are hopeful that PBS funding is spared, but it will have severe consequences if they vote to eliminate or reduce this funding.
6. **SY2025-2026 KETS Operational Plan and KBE staff note to be presented to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) on August 7.** We prepare/share these materials to a variety of audiences and then they will go before the KBE. We don't take a lot of items before the board so we take this opportunity annually to share our current KETS Infographic and KETS Timeline along with the staff note and KETS Operational Plan. The main purpose is to get approval for the disbursement of the \$15.4M KETS allocation; however, we go ahead and show/discuss all of the other funding sources available to go toward education technology purchases.

David Couch reviewed the operational plan inserted below, highlighting the breakdown of the \$15.4 million KETS annual allocation and other funding sources that can go toward education technology purchases to meet our KY K-12 Technology Need of \$431M annually as outlined in our 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology. He emphasized the importance of state shared services and the KETS offers of assistance program. Since the beginning of the KETS offers program, no district has let their KETS offer lapse and this greatly increases the capacity for education technology purchases with the district matching requirement. It's important for all of us to know how the money works and where it is going along with the limitations.

**Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS)
2025-2026 Operational Plan**

The State Shared Discounted Services categories and the estimated expenditure amounts associated with each in the 2025-2026 KETS Operational Plan are:

Instructional/Administrative Software Maintenance Licenses that are for or go directly to School Districts	\$1.5M
Financial Management System (MUNIS), Student/Teacher Technology Usage Analytics, Microsoft Network Licensing	
Instructional/Administrative Systems Operations and Maintenance Services that Students, Teachers and Staff Depend on Daily	\$7.0M
Help Desk Service (Levels 1-3, KDE and Vendor Partners), Customer Relationship and Resource Management (e.g., KETS Field Staff), Student Technology Leadership, Digital Learning Coach Services	
Administrative Systems Operations and Maintenance that are regularly used by Teachers, Staff or School District Leadership	\$1.9M
School Report Card Suite, Kentucky Educator Placement Service, District Digital Readiness Survey, Student Voice, Open House	
KETS Leadership, Planning, Management, Research and Evaluation	\$1.6M
KETS Engineering, KETS Vendor Management, KETS Planning, KETS Product Testing and Evaluation, KETS Project Management	
SY 2025-2026 Funds for KETS State Shared Discounted Services (subtotal of above lines)	\$12.0M
SY 2025-2026 Funds for Offers of Assistance for all districts projected as	\$3.4M
Grand Total SY 2025-2026 KETS Trust Fund Allocation from the Legislature	\$15.4M

In addition to the KETS Trust Fund Allocation, the SY 2025-2026 Operational Plan includes other local, state and federal funding resources that can address the KETS unmet need:

Kentucky K-12 Computer Science and IT Academy prepares educators and students for industry-recognized certifications. This is projected as **\$750K**.

Possible federal E-rate rebates for KDE-provided Internet services through the Next Generation K-12 Internet (NGKI) contract to all school districts that are projected as **\$9.5M**. These funds will be used for the following:

- KETS Offers of Assistance to school districts projected to be **\$7.0M**.
- KDE technology infrastructure updates projected as **\$0.7M**.
- Student Information System State Portion projected as **\$1.6M**.
- E-rate Management and Administration projected as **\$0.2M**.

Contingency available in the KETS Trust Fund. This is projected as **\$1.0M**.

Interest gained on the KETS Trust Fund and Escrow account. This is projected as **\$650K**.

Local district funds that are used to equally match KETS Offers of Assistance funds. This is projected as **\$11.1M**.

Education Technology targeted Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) 10% State Shared Services Funds through various COVID-19 related federal funding that are used for Infinite Campus Learning, Infinite Campus On-Line Registration, Simplify and Improve Secure Student and Teacher Access to all local and online K-12 resources from 1 July 2025 to 28 February 2026. For SY2025-2026, this is projected to be **\$3.7M**.

Infinite Campus Costs for Online Registration and Campus learning from 1 March 2026 to 30 June 2026. This is projected to be **\$0.5M**.

Federal E-rate that districts apply for themselves that are sent directly to districts. This is projected as **\$43.0M**.

Kentucky K-12 Internet Resources: The state legislature appropriated **\$17.3M** in annual operational resources to support the continued growth of the high-speed K-12 Internet network used by KDE and all Kentucky school districts.

- In 1995, Kentucky became the first state in the nation to provide high speed Internet services to every school district. KDE provides equity of Internet access speed, price, and service to every one of the 171 school districts through a highly available and high-quality fiber network. Based on previous surveys of all 171 Kentucky school district education technology leaders, the reliability and speed of the Kentucky Education Network (KEN) continues to exceed expectations in support of instructional practices. This high level of satisfaction is important as it allows students, teachers and staff reliable Internet access to resources/content, on-line testing sites, and cloud-based systems such as the student information system, email/communication tools, and financial management system. Additionally, many school districts utilize cloud-based management of security, facilities and school safety technologies, which need reliable Internet access to facilitate these critical

systems. The 2025-2026 school year will be the 3rd year of the 10-year Next Generation K-12 Internet (NGKI) contract that continues to provide a minimum access of 1 Mbps per student statewide.

- To provide a safe and secure infrastructure for all K-12 students, teachers and staff, Kentucky K-12 Internet is fortified by firewalls, a variety of Internet defense/protection services and an Internet Content Management System on the school campus and beyond the school campus. This also meets Senate Bill 230, 701 KAR 5:120 and Federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) regulations that are required for (a) KDE to meet state Internet safety/security requirements for K-12 students/adults and (b) for K-12 to receive up to an estimated \$52.5M in federal E-rate rebate (KDE-\$9.5M, school districts-\$43.0M).

State School Facility Construction Resources for new construction or renovations that can go toward: (1) internal wiring of voice, video and data lines within the school, (2) phone systems (including phone handsets), and (3) electronic projectors/boards or televisions. This is approximately **\$15M** per year.

KDE Program Area Resources: The following are used to directly support instructional and administrative systems for K-12 customers; Office of Education Technology (OET) Operational Resources, Child Nutrition Information Payment Systems (CNIPS), School and Community Nutrition (SCN) Point of Sale, Technology Education Database System (TEDS), Ky Summative Assessments (KSA), School Report Card Dashboard, Continuous Improvement Platform (eProve), Grant Management System, eTranscripts, Student Data Review & Roster (SDRR), Kentucky Facility Inventory and Classification System (KFICS), Kentucky Educator Certification and Ethics System, Kentucky School for The Deaf and Kentucky School for the Blind Technology, Area Technology Centers Technology, Professional Learning Management System, Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK), KDE Managed Print Services, EMARS and KHRIS, CCSSO Digital Excellence Grant, Title IVA. This is approximately **\$14.2M** per year.

The total for all resources (KETS Trust Fund and other local, state and federal) listed above is **\$132.1M**.

Additional resources available as reported by school districts that can go toward technology services for students estimated at **\$271.0M**:

Other resources that may be available to go towards technology services would include Special Education Funds, SEEK Funds, Corporate Donations, Local District General/Tax Funds, other Federal Funds (not technology specific) and Local Fund Raisers.

The Grand Total for all funding sources available to school districts is **\$403.1M**.

Other notable points:

- David spoke to the estimate dollar amount for technology related items that are part of new construction and major renovations in schools as listed around \$15M per year. This is the only item where we aren't able to get a more specific dollar figure. It would add too much of a burden on districts and their construction firms to break these specific technology costs out separately. However, this \$15M figure is in the ballpark.
- Kentucky is the only state that has a handle on technology funding available in other program areas; we do an excellent job in identifying the possible education technology funds available from all other program areas within KDE.
- This will be the last school year where the ESSER funds will be available/shown in the KETS Operational Plan.
- The Technology Activity Report (TAR) is unique to Kentucky and tells us how much district funds have been used toward education technology purchases.
- David shared some specific language from the staff note and we have a current total of \$403.1. He also reviewed the section from the staff note language on the ten-year background showing the increase during the Covid years and the now declining amount:

Below are the last ten (10) years of grand totals of all the EdTech funding sources available to KDE, districts, and schools identified to obtain KY K-12 EdTech products and technology enabled services, prior to the CV-19 pandemic in March 2020 and since March 2020. Prior to all the temporary CV-19 federal relief funds, KY K-12 EdTech had been regularly underfunded between \$100M-\$140M per year. KY K-12 districts are quickly returning to that significant underfunding of \$100M-\$140M of EdTech and, thus, will quickly experience the negative impacts of that underfunding unless something is done to increase the KDE Office of Education Technology (OET) and KETS budget to address that large funding shortfall.

- SY25-26 - \$403.1M
- SY24-25 - \$443.1M
- SY23-24 - \$491.6M
- SY22-23 - \$502.7M (includes \$27.7M of last round of temporary federal Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF))
- SY21-22 - \$405.4M (includes \$48.7M in first rounds of temporary federal Emergency Connectivity Funds (ECF))
- SY20-21 - \$330.7M
- SY19-20 - \$288.3M (includes \$20.8M jump of student & staff computer purchases from March 2020 to June 2020)
- SY18-19 - \$265.6M
- SY17-18 - \$228.7M
- SY16-17 - \$215.5M

The numbers above do include the \$15.4M KETS allocation. Nobody shows the total cost of ownership as well as Kentucky.

(27:49) The KY Auditor of Public Accounts (APA) report on KDE the agency released on 2 July 2025 - [KDE Special Examination Report 07-01-2025 s.pdf](#) This is the most extensive audit that we recall happening within KDE and possibly all state agencies.

The audit report identified four areas that were noted as noteworthy accomplishments.

The KETS program was identified as one of those four and the report stated the following (from page 26): ***"Kentucky Education Technology Systems (KETS) is highly regarded as a forward-leaning, innovative approach to statewide school technology."***

For the following discussion, David referred to a document sent out via email to CIOs prior to the webcast; these may be referenced from the link provided above:

- Pages 81 to 83 – The Office of Education Technology (OET) is highlighted. During the survey period, Superintendents were very favorable to the services provided by OET. We appreciate the positive comments made and district relationships we have with our Superintendents. The KETS Master Plan for Education Technology is highlighted as well.
- Page 48 – This section speaks to how the KETS program has always strived to be a leader in innovative K-12 education technology with a mindset for continuous improvement. Each division within the office is discussed and they provide more details about the office as a whole.
- Page 135 – This section notes the annual presentation made to the Kentucky Board of Education with an emphasis on the need for additional financial resources and also points out that they do not see any presentations on more futuristic technology innovations, such as Artificial Intelligence over the past 14 months.
- Page 28 – The Department as a whole is shown to have a positive work culture and high morale with employees who take great pride in all aspects of the work. OET staff work hard every day to make the services we provide a high-quality, good user experience for all.

We were pleased and appreciative that the group who completed the audit highlighted many of the positives along with things that can be done better and more efficiently.

(39:14) KY K-12 Connected User Experience System (CUES) Transition Update - Big shoutout to the Advisory Group put together for the CUES initiative--your time and efforts for this work are truly appreciated. We have 59 districts "in flight" at various stages of the enablement process. This number

includes 16 early adopters and 43 phase 1 districts. Things are going extremely well and schedule adjustments will be made in the near future. We want all districts to be in a good place before we launch Wave 2 in late September or early October. We will most likely also establish a 5th Cohort as, in hindsight, we realized that 43 districts in one wave was just too much. KDE the agency will be going through this process as well with some unique issues to address along the way. We will continue to refine and revamp aspects of the project using the input from those in earlier cohorts. In the way of providing advice as you move through this-- don't rush, be patient and be precise. Thanks to everyone involved!

(45:27) 2025 KY K-12 CIO Summit: Topic #5: Statewide Technical Learning Network – We have been reviewing the collective feedback from each of the CIO Summit topics in our monthly webcasts and this month we are reviewing the final topic that was presented for your feedback from the 2025 CIO Summit. As a reminder, below is the introduction and the guiding questions that were used during the discussion.

Topic #5: Statewide Technical Learning Network:

In today's rapidly evolving K-12 digital landscape, it is crucial for statewide school districts to establish a robust technical learning network. Such a network would facilitate the sharing of resources, best practices, and innovative EdTech methods across districts, ensuring that all students continue to have access to high-quality technology infused education regardless of their location. By fostering collaboration among education technology professionals, a technical learning network can help bridge the technical support divide and help fill in major gaps. Additionally, it would support ongoing professional development of technical leaders, enabling them to stay current with the latest advancements and digital strategies. Ultimately, the development of a technical learning network is essential for creating a more connected, efficient, and effective educational system that benefits all stakeholders.

Guiding Questions:

- **Other than “all”, which technologies do you find the most difficult to manage effectively and why?**

Results were overwhelming in four key areas:

1. Managing Magnitude of devices,
2. Trying to stay on top of ALL cybersecurity efforts,
3. Facilities technologies, and
4. Basic concepts of identity management, interoperability, connecting concepts together, etc.

- **For your overwhelmed technology staff, which is of greater need: ongoing Professional Development (training) or on-site/remote assistance?**

We heard both with a need to provide professional development in-person and virtually.

- **What services have you “brokered” to offset operational tasks to external partners?**

One of the concepts in white paper is to leverage the expertise of your vendors and/or operationalize some of those day-to-day activities. There were some great examples – white glove services, E-rate eligible services, Charlie in the box service by KEDC, and leveraging the expertise of our STLP students.

- **Which KETS Partners best meet your needs regarding responsiveness, deployment, and support?**

- **Where do we have gaps?** More assistance on site; more training

- **How successful would a statewide technical learning network with scheduled and programmed professional development topics be in your region?**

All table responses were favorable w/time constraints of CIOs acknowledged and virtual attendance allowed.

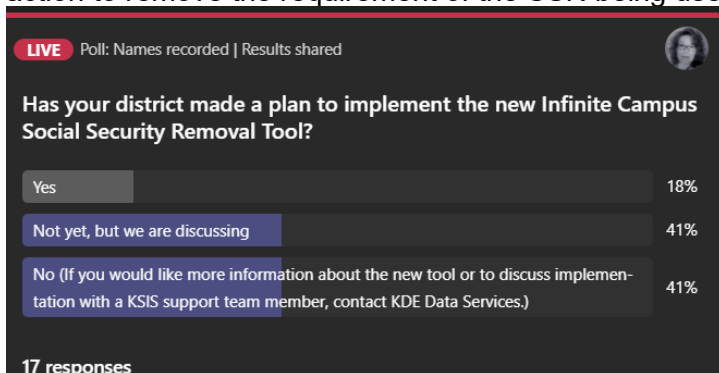
(52:33) KDE's Professional Learning Management System (PLMS) as it relates to KY K-12

EdTech – Marty Park discussed the new professional learning management system, the KY Learning Hub, which aims to provide high-quality professional learning content for certified and classified staff in school districts, required course, etc.. This is an initiative that pools KDE's professional learning content in one place and it will be launching very soon. You can check it out at

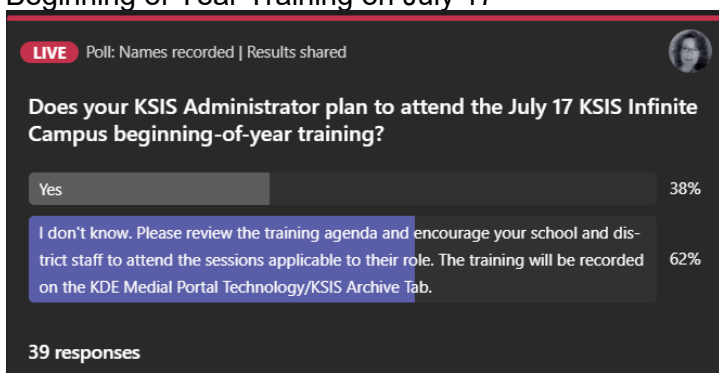
<https://catalog.kylearninghub.org/>. This is an adult centered professional learning platform and courses will continue to be added in this learning hub for our edtech leaders!

(54:59) KY K-12 Data System Update:

- School Report Card (SRC) Suite
 - Safe Schools data will open to districts for review July 21
 - Overview, Education Opportunity domains open mid-August
 - CTE and Transition data won't be available until mid-September before partial public release early October
 - Assessment and Accountability data will be released later this year due to standards setting.
- Civil Rights Data Collection
 - The 2023-2024 CRDC Data Quality Review, for selected LEAs, closed on June 30.
 - The next CRDC data collection will be for 2025-2026 school year data.
- Kentucky Student Information System (KSIS)
 - OLR – KDE paying for all districts; Campus Learning – KDE paying for districts that opted in to continue using. Working out details for refunds for districts that have already paid. We appreciate Infinite Campus working with us on this.
 - SSN Diet: SSN Removal tool is now available in Infinite Campus. The tool removed SSNs from over 1.7 million unique persons and over 3.59 million records in State Edition. This tool will be made available to you to remove SSNs within your data records. David shared some additional information on the status and continuing efforts internally and in collaboration with other agencies to remove student SSNs in Kentucky, some of which will require legislative action to remove the requirement of the SSN being used.



- Legislative-related work in process:
 - SB181 - Traceable Communication System – Infinite Campus Training Recorded
 - SB19 - Moral Instruction – New Attendance Code created in all districts, and Moral Instruction Provider Tracking of application approval/rejection is coming soon
 - HB 241 – tracking 100% virtual – new field being added to enrollment record; it will be in the September timeframe.
- Beginning of Year Training on July 17



Training Opportunities

For details on the following training opportunities, go to the [KSIS Training webpage](#).

Date	Title	Training Provider	Trainee/Group	Location
July 17	2025-2026 KSIS Infinite Campus (Ky. Specific) beginning-of-year training	KDE Data Governance	Districts	Teams

Other

- Opportunity to join the KDE School Data Services Team - The creation of a Data Architect position is in process. Watch for the job announcement in the Commissioner's message.
- There has been a newly awarded contract that will transition the college admissions test from the ACT to the SAT. College Board was awarded the contract and this will begin with the 2025-2026 school year.

(1:07:55) Reminder: Annual KY K-12 Cybersecurity Healthcheck due in August 2025 by all districts and KDE - Bob Hackworth shared the timeline and statute around the required report that goes before your local board prior to the end of August annually. He recommended that you put in all the work/processes/data cleanup that you are currently doing to prepare for CUES as well as some of the results from CISA vulnerability scanning. While preparing your annual report, consider sharing the current gaps in your security and what would help you get rid of those gaps. This is an excellent opportunity for you to advocate for KETS and your district for things that will make your environment more secure; if that isn't possible, it is still important for your leadership to be aware of the risks. If you are new to the CIO position and need some additional information, please contact Bob at Robert.hackworth@education.ky.gov.

(1:10:59) The Information Technology Oversight Committee met on the morning of July 9th with OET leadership being asked to speak. David and Mike were the first presenters at the table. After our OET Leadership, there were additional presenters with all presentations and questions being focused on the KyWired initiative. The video of the committee meeting can be viewed at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=81J7_ZDAnk

David recommended that everyone watch this committee meeting in its entirety.



Information Technology Oversight Committee
Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, July 9, 2025 10:00 AM
Annex Room 129



1. Call to Order and Roll Call

2. Approval of Minutes

From the March 7, 2025 meeting.

3. Discussion of the KentuckyWired network

A. Kentucky Communications Network Authority

Doug Hendrix, Executive Director
Kentucky Communications Network Authority
Greg Gatson, Chief Operating Officer
Kentucky Communications Network Authority

B. Accelecom

Brad Kilbey, Chief Executive Officer
Accelecom
Kevin H. Marino, Legal Counsel, Accelecom
Member, Marino, Tortorella & Boyle, P.C.

C. Kentucky Department of Education

David Couch, Associate Commissioner, KY K-12 EdTech Leader & Chief
Information Officer
Office of Education Technology
Mike Leadingham, Director
Office of Education Technology

D. Auditor of Public Accounts

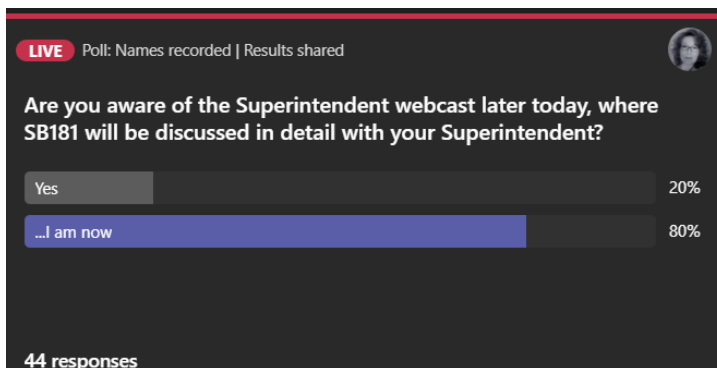
Lorran Hart Ferguson, Chief of Staff
Auditor of Public Accounts
Alexander Magera, General Counsel
Auditor of Public Accounts

4. Next Meeting

August 13, 2025 at 10 AM chaired by Senator Williams.

(1:12:17) The KY legislative Artificial Intelligence Task Force meets on the afternoon of July 15th with OET being asked to present. The AI Commission of 16 states that OET is part of then meets on July 17 and 18. David shared A.I. in KY K-12, July 2025 - Kentucky Department of Education to the legislative committee in preparation for this meeting. Your feedback from past CIO Summits has been shared with this taskforce along with some other materials. David also referenced a recent Gallup poll where findings show that 60% of teachers used an AI tool in the 2024-2025 school year. Weekly AI users report reclaiming nearly six hours per week or the equivalent to six weeks per year.

(1:15:28) KDE's General Council Todd Allen and KDE Commissioner Fletcher will spend time with Superintendents reviewing the KDE interpretations of SB 181 (aka, Traceable Communications) on the monthly Superintendent's webcast on 15 July from 2-4 pm. The department has prepared a Q&A document around provisions in SB181 that will be shared and published after the Supt's webcast on the KDE website (Legislative Guidance - Kentucky Department of Education). Our KDE Office of Legal Services is the owner of this Q&A document and will continue to be part of KDE's perspective on this topic. Some districts have taken a very restrictive approach and many districts are currently taking steps/making decisions toward the implementation of SB181 that went into effect on June 27, 2025. Please review and encourage your Superintendents to view this webcast and/or review the guidance document.



Other Items to Note:

- STLP champions were able to go and shine at the recent International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) conference held in Texas. Each group of project winners will be highlighted in future Kentucky Teacher articles.