

## Summary of the May 2026 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 May 19, 2026, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: <https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2026/05/edtech-webcast-may-19-2026/>.

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 not posed during today's webcast. 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.

We are in the home stretch of the school year so this webcast will be our last big meeting with our edtech leaders before the summer months.

**(1:19) STLP State Championship Recap - STATE – STLP** : Jeff Sebulsky and David Couch provided a comprehensive recap of the STLP State Championship, highlighting student achievements, school visits, and the importance of teamwork, with contributions from Matt Jury and Bob Hackworth regarding project details and cybersecurity aspects. Thanks to all of you for your contributions and participation in another great year! Our winning project teams will be going to ISTE. Visit the website address provided above to see all the details and winners from our state championship.

- **Event Overview and Participation:** Jeff Sebulsky described the STLP State Championship held at Rupp Arena and Central Bank Center, noting the participation of 22,000 attendees, 550 schools from 102 districts, and 392 school buses. The event showcased student technology projects and included award ceremonies broadcast live on KET.



- **Project Champions and School Visits:** David Couch and Jeff Sebulsky discussed visits to Bloom Elementary and Eminence High School, recognizing their project champions and emphasizing the value of teamwork. Bob Hackworth joined the school visit to Eminence High School due to their project on cybersecurity and phishing, providing expertise and support for the students' technical

initiatives. They also mentioned upcoming visits to Floyd County and Morgan County to celebrate additional champions.

<p><b>BEST K-5 PROJECT IN KENTUCKY</b></p> <p><b>Bloom News Kidz</b> Bloom Elementary Jefferson County STLP COACH: MAUREEN RESS</p>  <p>STLP KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</p>	<p><b>BEST 6-8 PROJECT IN KENTUCKY</b></p> <p><b>Flood Guard</b> James D. Adams MS Floyd County STLP COACH: HEATHER WHEELER</p>  <p>STLP KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</p>
<p><b>BEST 9-12 PROJECT IN KENTUCKY</b></p> <p><b>PhisherMen</b> Eminence High School Eminence Independent STLP COACH: JEN GILBERT</p>  <p>STLP KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</p>	<p><b>BEST TECHNICAL PROJECT IN KY</b></p> <p><b>Breaking Point Initiative</b> Morgan Co. High School Morgan County STLP COACH: DAKOTA ADKINS</p>  <p>Winner Dave Sigler Award for Best Technical Project</p> <p>STLP KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION</p>













- **Student Recognition and Feedback:** David Couch shared feedback from students, including a memorable comment from a state champion at Eminence High School who described the championship day as the best day of their life. The team plans to incorporate student feedback to improve future events. It is such a fantastic and memorable day for everyone involved.
- **Volunteer Contributions:** Jeff Sebulsky acknowledged the efforts of over 500 volunteers, including CIOs, technicians, digital learning coaches, library media specialists, teachers, parents, principals, superintendents, and legislators, who made the event possible.
- **STLP Championship 2027** – Already scheduled for April 21, 2027!!

**(16:49) Kentucky Summit of Assessment Progress:** Paul Shoemaker updated the group on the ongoing assessment window, reporting over 1.48 million completed assessments with minimal incidents. He provided guidance for districts on support and escalation procedures, with David Couch inquiring about final numbers and wrap-up stages.

- **Assessment Completion Status:** Paul Shoemaker reported that 1,481,165 assessments had been completed, with 36 districts and academies finishing their test window for 2026, and the testing window set to close on June 9th.
- **Incident Management and Support:** Paul Shoemaker advised districts to open tickets with Pearson support for any issues and to use the DAC support email for questions related to KDE procedures, ensuring rapid escalation and resolution. To date, there have been very few incidents, and this speaks volumes to the work done by the districts in making everything ready for students.
- **Projected Final Numbers:** David Couch asked about the expected total assessments, and Paul Shoemaker clarified that the average is about 1.5 million, with the record being 1.589 million, indicating the remaining tests are likely makeup or extended sessions.

**(20:39) CUES Update & Summer Technology Checklist (a/k/a CHUCK-list 😊) and Deadlines:**

Chuck Austin, Matt Jury, and David Couch reviewed the summer technology checklist that was created through the CUES project timelines, emphasizing deadlines for SMTP relay changes, endpoint protection, Active Directory decommissioning, Infinite Campus contracts, and Rapid Identity federation, with input from Dede and Mike on contract and licensing details. Following the audio from the recording is recommended as this was a very detailed discussion.

- **SMTP Relay and Endpoint Protection:** Matt Jury confirmed the SMTP relay deadline was moved to June 1<sup>st</sup>. Districts must transition endpoint protection solutions by June 30th as KDE-funded Trellix support ends, requiring local solutions to be fully deployed.
- **Active Directory Decommissioning and Rapid Identity:** Chuck Austin explained the extension of Active Directory decommissioning to June 30, 2028, and stressed the importance of completing Rapid Identity federation for all students and staff before the new school year to avoid access issues.
- **Infinite Campus Contract Management/Invoices:** Dede clarified the June 1st deadline for Infinite Campus online registration and campus learning contracts, noting the 30-day cancellation clause and the impact on grade imports and interoperability if not renewed or canceled appropriately. Invoices have gone out and they normally go to the district financial officer; it is important to review those especially due to the Infinite Campus offerings.

- **Microsoft Licensing Transition:** Mike and Chuck discussed the expiration of KDE-provided EMS A3 licenses on August 30th, advising districts to consult with Team Hazzard and Insight for local licensing needs, especially for endpoint protection and Office installations.
- **Business Process Changes for Onboarding:** David Couch and Chuck Austin highlighted the need for district HR and enrollment staff to adapt business processes for timely account creation and access provisioning, with Marty noting additional onboarding and training for new staff.

## KY Education Technology Leaders Agenda May 2026 Checklist

- **SMTP Relay Change:**
  - **Deadline: May 29, 2026**
  - If devices use [KETSMAIL.US](#) (DNS), no action is needed
  - If devices use a direct IP address, reconfigure these devices to use the new IP address: 10.226.18.9
- **Letter of Agency for KDE 2027 KETS Network Products and Services Contract**
  - **Deadline: May 29, 2026**
  - Submit LOA to [ERate District Collection Site](#)
- **Infinite Campus/Online Registration:**
  - **Deadline: June 1st, 2026**
  - If your district is continuing OLR and/or Campus Learning, no action is needed.
  - If your district would like to discontinue OLR and/or Campus Learning, you (or your IC POC) must notify Campus via a support ticket by 6/1.
    - *If your district has a current contract, there is a 30-day cancellation clause to avoid payment. If you cancel Campus Learning, the grades export from Google will no longer work.*
- **Anti-Virus/Endpoint Protection:**
  - **Deadline: KDE-funded Trellix solution ends on June 30th.**
  - Ensure a local solution is fully deployed to all district devices. Your district solution should be finalized, deployed, and the KDE-funded Trellix removed before this date.
- **CUES Update:**
  - **Deadline: August 30, 2026**
  - User accounts (staff and students) are claimed
  - Federation is complete (Microsoft/Google/IC/MUNIS)
  - To keep student accounts active in the summer, districts need to have a summer calendar in IC or to adjust their deactivation policy in RI so that student accounts don't disable when they end dated in the current IC calendar. (Be on the lookout for RI's email with more details.)
  - When the districts move to the 26-27 calendar in IC, districts need to disable their threshold when that calendar first syncs with RI, because most likely every student will have a change.
  - Review the "End of the Year" RI [Video Link](#) (also found on the Academy Course platform - CUES On-Demand Webinars)
- **IP Services DHCP transition scheduled:**
  - DNS and DHCP Cutover (scheduled with your KE-Your district may be finished)
  - Ensure your vendor has your forwarders in place, they are available remotely for your transition date, and you have read the [IP Services District Migration Guide](#).
  - Migrate all DNS/DHCP services to Infoblox on the scheduled date
    - Clean Up DHCP Forwarders
  - Remove old forwarders 7-10 days after DHCP cutover
    - Address Static IP Devices
  - Audit and reconfigure all devices currently using static IPs and ensure they are pointing to Infoblox
- **Identify any Microsoft licensing needs:**
  - **KDE Provided EMS A3 licenses will expire August 30, 2026**
  - Does the district need to pick up any licenses when KDE-provided licenses expire?
  - Deadline: District-provided licenses must be effective September 1, 2026
    - Consult with Insight ([TeamHazzard@insight.com](mailto:TeamHazzard@insight.com)) for licensing questions
  - Schedule a meeting to review specific district licensing needs
    - Review Client Access License (CALs) Requirements
      - Consider CTE Labs
      - Consider Microsoft Office installs that some end users may need

## Other Updates and Information May 2026

- **Digital Learning Team Updates:**
  - [Teach Meet Dates](#)
- **GoGuardian:**
  - GoGuardian will be offering some optional virtual trainings. Add to your calendar if interested.
    - **Ending the School Year with GoGuardian Admin** (June 3<sup>rd</sup> - 11AM-12PM & June 4<sup>th</sup> - 2PM-3PM)
      - 2 repeating sessions - would only need to attend one if interested in this session
    - **Reporting and Monitoring in GoGuardian Admin** (June 24<sup>th</sup> - 11AM-12PM)
    - **GoGuardian Admin for New CIOs/Districts** (July 8<sup>th</sup> - 11AM-12 PM & July 16<sup>th</sup> - 2PM-3PM)
      - 2 repeating sessions - would only need to attend one if interested in this session
- **E-rate FY2026 Status:**
  - Wave 1 of FY26 was issued on May 2nd. Over \$26.8M and 35+% of our FRNs funded. For those, a Form 486 may be needed soon. For others, watch for information regarding any PIA review questions.
- **KDE FAQ related to 2026 HB 67:**
  - Review the FAQ [linked here](#). The legislation added some language and updated some definitions that were leading to quite a few district questions when SB181 was passed during the previous legislative session.
- **Awareness on summer server maintenance:**
  - Expect to see a Service Advisory and to receive an email from Danielle Bennett at Volta. They've tested the updates and will only be updating one server at a time. Initial pace of 15 servers per evening and that may be adjusted depending on how things actually progress. Current pace of 4 days/week, roughly 6/1 through 7/9. Firmware and security updates for Hyper-V host servers.
- [Annual KY K-12 EdTech Needs and Budget](#)
- [Annual Cybersecurity Healthcheck](#)
- [Student Technology Skill Standards with AI](#)
- [Higher-Ed Marketing System](#)
- [New KEPS](#)
- [College Entrance Exam RFP](#)
- [Network Components RFP](#)
- [GoGuardian Client/Autoupdate](#)
- [Infinite Campus Dues](#)
- [Annual KETS Vendor/Partner Meeting](#)

**(32:24) Cybersecurity Threats and Health Check Guidance:** Bob Hackworth briefed the group on emerging AI-driven cybersecurity threats, particularly Anthropic's Mythos, and reinforced the importance of foundational security practices, timely patching, and the annual cybersecurity health check, encouraging districts to communicate needs to superintendents and boards.

- **AI-Driven Vulnerability Discovery:** Bob Hackworth described how Anthropic's Mythos AI is capable of finding and weaponizing software bugs at unprecedented speed and scale, identifying thousands of zero-day vulnerabilities and security bugs in major operating systems and browsers.
- **Security Practice Recommendations:** Bob Hackworth emphasized the continued importance of our current stance by using supported technology, timely patching, proper access controls, MFA, good password hygiene, and detailed hardware/software inventories to mitigate risks from both human and AI attackers. These security fundamentals are more important than ever.
- **Annual Cybersecurity Health Check:** Bob Hackworth reminded districts to begin their annual cybersecurity health check, providing guidance on reporting strengths and weaknesses to superintendents and local boards to secure funding and support for improvements. This is an annual required reporting that is due by August 31. Bob will be sending out an email communication to CIOs with some helpful information about how to complete and what to include in that document.

**(47:50) GoGuardian Client Update and Maintenance:** Matt Jury informed districts about the upcoming GoGuardian client update (version 26.3.1), scheduled for release after Memorial Day, and advised districts to ensure devices are auto-update capable before the end of school to facilitate smooth updates in August.

- **Update Release Timing:** Matt Jury explained that the GoGuardian update will be released on the afternoon of May 26th, after the bulk of testing and the holiday weekend, to avoid disruption.

- **Auto-Update Capability:** Districts were advised to upgrade devices to auto-update capable versions before the end of school, ensuring seamless updates when devices are powered on in August.

**(49:01) Annual EdTech Needs, Budget, and Vendor Meeting:** Mike and David Couch discussed the upcoming annual KETS operational plan and budget presentation, the importance of district feedback, and announced the annual vendor partner meeting scheduled for July 8th, inviting vendors and partners to participate.

- **Budget and Operational Plan Preparation:** Mike stated that the annual operational plan and budget for KETS will be finalized and presented to the board in August, with preliminary information shared with CIOs during our webcast in July. These materials incorporate district feedback (Digital Readiness and TAR reports) as well as legislative outcomes impacting budgetary and programmatic areas.
- **Vendor Partner Meeting Announcement:** Mike announced the annual vendor partner meeting is scheduled for July 8th, encouraging vendors and partners to attend and engage in discussions about ongoing and future initiatives.

**(50:21) Higher Education Marketing System and Legislative Updates:** David Couch and Dede discussed the new higher education marketing system legislation, the process for identifying the lead KDE office, and the possible new data collections this legislation will require.

- **Lead Office Identification:** David Couch explained efforts to identify the Office of Teaching and Learning as the lead for the higher education marketing system, with OET's role focused on the purely technology aspects of the legislation.
- **Directory Information Collection:** Dede outlined the five new data collections required, including directory information definitions, opt-outs, opt-ins for the post-secondary admissions program, preferred communication method, and governor's graduate pipeline programs.

**(52:30) Network Components RFP and College Entrance Exam Rebid:** Mike provided updates on the network components RFP, confirming progress toward new contracts before the E-rate filing window, and David Couch noted the upcoming rebid of the college entrance exam contract due to legislative requirements.

- **Network Components RFP Progress:** Mike reported ongoing work with the finance administration cabinet to ensure new contracts for network products and services are established before the January E-rate filing window, with no anticipated obstacles.
- **College Entrance Exam Rebid:** David Couch stated that the college entrance exam contract will be rebid following recent legislation, despite the previous year's successful award with SAT receiving that award.

**(56:05) Server Maintenance and Hyper-V Host Upgrades:** Matt Jury announced routine maintenance for district virtual servers, including Hyper-V host upgrades, scheduled from June 1st to July 9th, with Volta handling updates and notifying districts of completion or issues.

- **Maintenance Schedule and Notification:** Matt Jury detailed that maintenance will occur between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. from June 1st to July 9th, with Volta responsible for updates and communication regarding progress or any arising issues.