Summary of October 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 October 20, 2026, EdTech leaders' virtual meeting. A copy of the video and audio can be found at: https://mediaportal.education.ky.gov/technology/2026/10/edtech-webcast-october-20-2026/.

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 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.

(1:48) Technology Activity Report (TAR) Status, Digital Readiness Status & Top 5 Feedback Link: Marty and Mike reported near-complete district technology activity reporting and digital readiness work, explained how districts should use the results for local reflection and planning, and announced upcoming analysis and top five feedback activities.

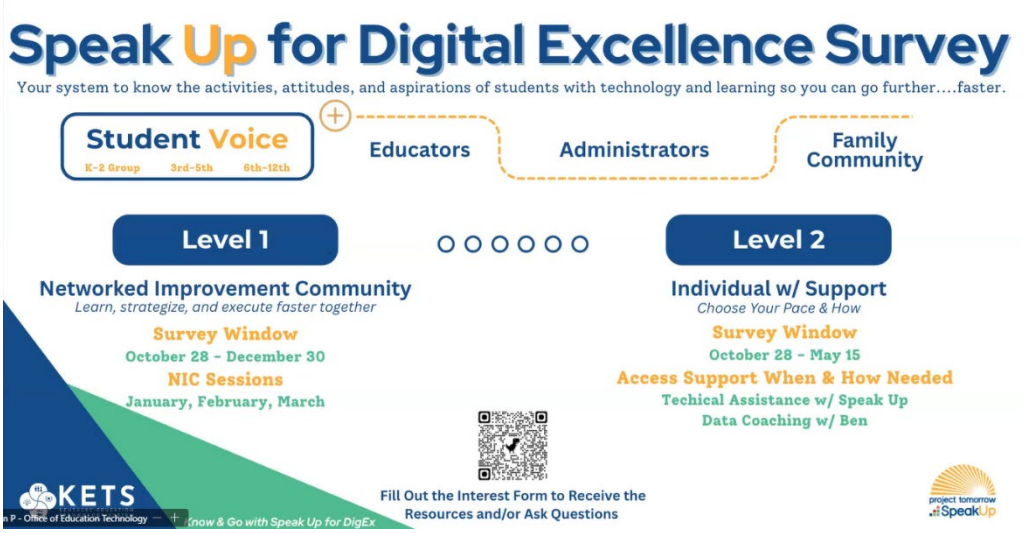
- **Activity Report Status:** Technology activity reports reached 98.8% completion, with a small number of districts still working with their KETS engineers to close gaps. We use the TAR data throughout the year for data-driven decision making. The first KETS offer of assistance notifications were sent to 115 districts, although some signature pages remain outstanding. These are the initial steps of an efficient workflow as we work with the SFCC to process your KETS Offer.
- **Digital Readiness:** Digital readiness reached 100% completion, while the team continued a stewardship review of submissions. We plan to begin sharing statewide analysis of the digital readiness and TAR findings.
- **Local Program Reflection:** Marty emphasized that activity reports are intended not only for KDE use but also for districts to compare spending and commodity-code activity with their technology plans, identify mismatches, and provide feedback on how the reports could be more useful.
- **Top Five Feedback:** KETS engineers have shared the link/process for the required annual feedback activity. EdTech Leaders have until December 15 to identify the top five areas that went well, the top five areas that did not go well, and the top five priorities for the upcoming year. The response link will also be included in regional leadership meeting materials.

(8:40) Follow-up on Testimony of Quality Screen Use and AI in KY K-12: Marty and DeDe discussed the need for continued advocacy of the screen use conversation as well as sharing that laws are already in place regarding the student data privacy concerns brought up as part of this overall topic.

- **Advocacy Efforts/Follow-up:** We need to continue to work together to deliver this message and advocate with leaders and legislatures across the state. We included all the materials that were covered and submitted to the BR on Education with the prepared agenda for this webcast. You may also watch the full presentation of the September 1 meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education (IJCE); we recommend listening to and sharing this presentation with your superintendents, chief academic officers, boards, and legislators for upcoming policy discussions. The presentation begins right after the 54:00 mark.
- **Student Data Privacy Safeguards:** Dede and Marty explained that Kentucky statutes and contracts restrict how vendors may use student-level data and establish requirements for cloud reporting and breach handling.

- **Contractual Safeguards:** Dede explained that legislative safeguards apply to entities doing business with the Commonwealth and are reflected in relevant contracts. Vendors may use student-level data only for the stated contractual purpose unless another use is authorized in writing. KRS 365.734 drills down into the prohibited uses of personally identifiable (PII) of student information by cloud computer service providers.
- **Vendor And Breach Questions:** Marty connected the growing public discussion about screen use with questions about the applications, vendors, and partners used by districts. They noted that Kentucky requirements govern both unauthorized secondary use of student data and security incidents or data breaches.

(14:34) Student Voice & Digital Excellence: Marty and Ben asked districts to participate in Project Tomorrow's Speak Up survey so student, educator, administrator, and family perspectives can inform technology planning and high-quality technology use.



- **Participation Models:** Ben described two participation options: Level 1 joins a networked improvement community that shares strategies and meets in January, February, and March, while Level 2 allows a district to choose its own pace with individual support, technical assistance, and data coaching.
- **Survey Window:** The survey window for the networked improvement community runs from October 28 through December 30. Level 1 districts were asked to administer surveys to grades 3–5, grades 6–12, educators, and administrators. There is a Level 2 for individual w/support participation where the survey window remains available from October 28 through May 15.
- **Current And Target Participation:** Eighteen districts have expressed interest, and Marty encouraged broader participation, including an earlier goal of 100 districts. The survey was described as taking approximately five to ten minutes and as a way to combine digital-readiness data with direct perspectives from students and other stakeholders.
- **Statewide Collaboration:** Marty said Kentucky's digital excellence work combines digital readiness with student voice and has attracted five additional states through external support/grant funding from the Ballmer Foundation and the Council of Chief State School Officers. Districts were asked to identify and communicate any barriers that KDE could help remove.

(21:57) Cybersecurity & STLP Engagement: Marty highlighted Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a Frontline-related breach response affecting multiple districts, and upcoming STLP deadlines and opportunities leading to the April 21, 2027, state championship.

- **Breach Response:** KDE was monitoring a nationwide service-related data-breach process involving at least approximately 15 Kentucky districts that utilize Frontline, with more potentially affected. Districts involved were directed to follow the existing breach process and work with Bob Hackworth; KDE noted that the statewide process may be refined in the future.
- **Cybersecurity Badge:** District STLP programs could earn the monthly Level Up cybersecurity-awareness badge by completing cybersecurity activities during Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

- **Regional Registration:** STLP Level 1 project registration was due October 28 for the online November 18 regional event. Registration reserved a place and did not require projects to be complete.



- **Volunteer And Ambassador Opportunities:** EdTech Leaders were encouraged to judge Level 1 projects on the morning of November 18. Links were provided on how to sign up to help. Now is the time to identify and communicate with grades 9–12 students for the STLP Engineer Ambassador application, which closes November 1. The state championship is scheduled for April 21, 2027.

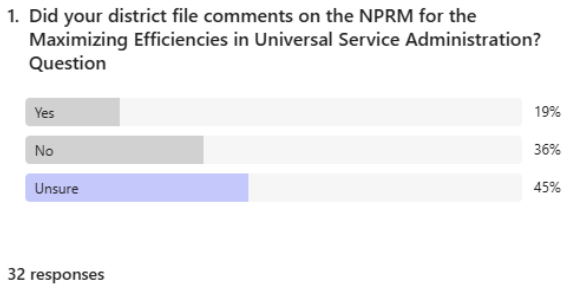


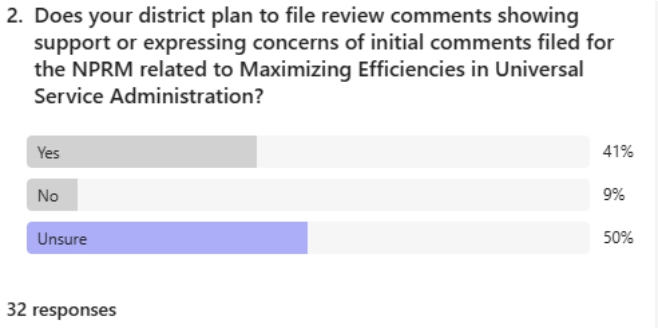
(30:01) E-Rate Program Advocacy: Mike and Marty summarized Kentucky's responses to two FCC proposed rulemakings concerning E-Rate administration and program validity and asked districts to review and support the comments before the applicable deadlines. Since the birth of the federal E-Rate program in 1996, KY K-12 has regularly been a top 5 recipient in the amount of funds received per student. In 2026 it will bring in $54M ($45M to districts and $9M to KDE) for education technology. The FCC recently announced that they are considering making major changes to the E-Rate program. This could have major negative financial consequences to every school, district office, and KDE office.

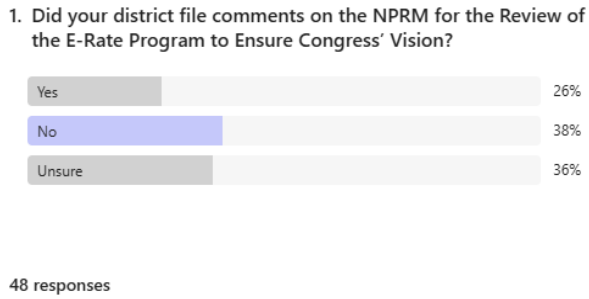
- **Two FCC Proposals:** There are two Notices of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). One examines how the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) administers E-Rate and how efficiency could improve. The second examines whether the program's purpose, eligible categories, and ongoing design remain valid with an emphasis on the screen use conversation.
- **Kentucky Responses:** Kentucky submitted a response on the administration proposal on September 30 and a response on the program-validity proposal on October 13, incorporating feedback gathered from districts and KETS engineering staff. Jody Rose collected the district submissions and OET also had an internal team led by Scott Kane to complete the final submissions submitted for both NPRMs. Here are the links to the KDE Responses to these NPRMs: 1. FCC NPRM to **Review E-Rate Program to Ensure Congress' Vision** and KDE FCC 26-133 Submitted Comment Letter filing, and

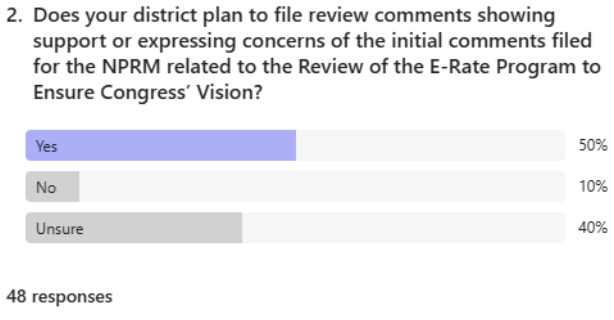
2.FCC NPRM for [Maximizing Efficiencies in the Universal Service Administration] and [KDE FCC 26-52 Submitted Comment Letter Filing]

- **District Reply Deadlines:** Districts could review and reply to comments on the administration proposal through October 30 and to comments on the program-validity proposal through November 12. Marty encouraged districts to support Kentucky's positions where appropriate or submit respectful counterpoints where they disagreed.
- **Funding Importance:** Marty stated that the federal program represents multiple millions of dollars and that the loss of E-Rate funding would have a major effect on the KETS program, making district participation in the FCC process important.
- **Poll Questions:** Two, 2-part questions were posed to webcast participants





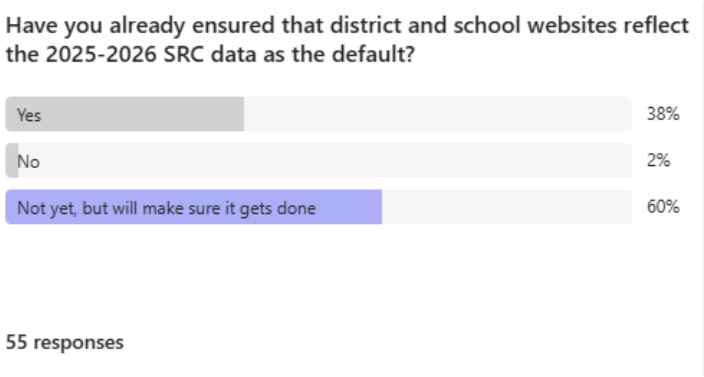




(40:11) KY K-12 Data Systems Update:

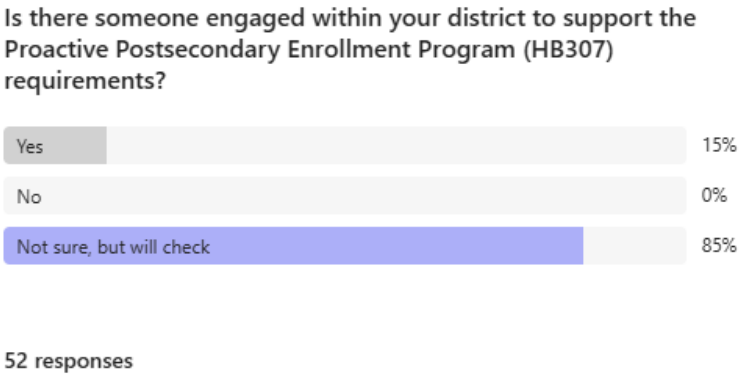
- **School Report Card Suite (SRC) Data Quality:** Dede described the newly released School Report Card Suite, district data-quality responsibilities, and required website and communication updates for the 2025–26 data year. The SRC is both a state and federal requirement and some of the work and data verification falls directly on our school districts.
    - **Data Quality Ownership:** Marty reported that 112 districts had identified someone responsible for overall data quality, with 56 of those being our EdTech Leaders. Dede thanked district staff because the annual release depends on districts reviewing and entering data that KDE does not otherwise collect.
    - **Report Card Features:** The School Report Card dashboard provides statewide and local views of student groups, program participation, accountability, academic performance, career and technical education, educational opportunity, transition to adult life, and school safety, with drill-down, trend, and multi-select capabilities. DeDe shared the SRC landing page and completed a short demonstration of the SRC dashboard and how to get the data sets if needed. Please review and provide any comments.
    - **Website Requirements:** Within 14 days of publication, districts must update banners on school and district websites, ensure links point to the current report card, and verify that embedded pages default to 2025–26 rather than the prior year. The report card must also be shared through the largest-circulation newspaper and sent to parents. The following links were shared:

1. Kentucky Department of Education - Homepage, https://www.education.ky.gov/districts/tech/sis/Documents/SRC_SharingRequirements.pdf,
2. House Bill 500, 2026, Reporting Requirements



- **Correction Window:** The Office of Assessment and Accountability provides a 10-day period for districts to report suspected errors. A collector window will reopen for corrections such as inaccurate names, missing technology data, or other non-assessment information, followed by a planned November refresh.

- **Postsecondary Data Sharing & Interchange:** Dede introduced the recently passed House Bill 307 postsecondary-admission data work and encouraged districts to assign responsibility for it, while also promoting the December 3–4 Infinite Campus interchange.
  - **FERPA And Directory Data:** The proactive postsecondary admission program requires districts to document directory-information policies, student opt-outs, and any opt-ins for additional fields before KDE shares data with universities under FERPA requirements.
  - **Student Information:** The shared information will help universities evaluate student credentials and outcomes and communicate directly with students. The process also captures communication methods and participation in the Governor's education programs, including the state seal, which can additionally be placed on transcripts.
  - **District Responsibility:** Dede said the work is new for both KDE and districts and asked districts to ensure that someone is engaged, potentially involving superintendents, counselors, academic coordinators, or student-information-system contacts.



  - **Interchange Attendance:** The Infinite Campus interchange is scheduled for December 3–4. Dede encouraged each district to send a participant to learn best practices from KDE, Infinite Campus, and neighboring districts and bring relevant information back locally.

(53:37) Tyler Munis (EERP) Enterprise & SAML/MFA Updates: Brian outlined the phased Tyler Munis modernization and VPN-to-SAML authentication work, while also warning districts about possible wireless effects from WSUS upgrades.

- **Tyler Modernization:** The Tyler EERP modernization will begin with local print-server implementations, followed by training and test migrations, and later API integration with the statewide CUES initiative. The targeted implementation window is approximately the next year to year and a half, and districts should coordinate with their finance officers.

- **Local Print Servers:** Although the local print-server phase is not expected to be a heavy lift, Brian said it will require district work. He planned to share the presentation materials and asked EdTech Leaders to review them with their finance officers.
- **VPN Authentication:** The transition from VPN to SAML authentication remained targeted for statewide completion on November 9. Districts interested in moving early could submit a help-desk ticket so the security team could assist with setup.
- **WSUS Advisory:** Brian asked districts to review the service advisory about WSUS upgrades occurring during the week, which could affect wireless authentication. Districts should follow the recommended actions and coordinate with local network providers to minimize disruption.

(58:02) GoGuardian - Discover Contract Process: Marty and Mike described GoGuardian Discover as an optional analytics add-on and explained that KDE must complete state contracting steps before it can be purchased through the master agreement.

- **Discover Capabilities:** The Discover tool is intended to help districts analyze application frequency of use, adoption, cost, total cost of ownership, and perceived value so they can better evaluate technology impact.
- **Master Agreement:** KDE is working with GoGuardian, the Finance and Administration Cabinet (FAC), and the Commonwealth Office of Technology (COT) to add Discover as an option under the existing master agreement. Mike estimated that the process could be completed before the end of the calendar year.
- **Impact Measurement:** Marty connected application-use analytics with student voice and progress data as part of the broader KETS Master Plan effort to gage whether technology is producing meaningful learning impact.

(1:01:37) CUES & Active Directory Transition Updates: Chuck explained that the CUES initiative has completed baseline RapidIdentity and Infoblox implementations but still requires substantial identity, integration, security, and Active Directory decommissioning work through June 30, 2028.

- **CUES Components:** Chuck described CUES as a three-part effort: RapidIdentity for identity and access management, Infoblox for IP services such as DNS and DHCP, and the eventual decommissioning of legacy on-premise Active Directory infrastructure.
- **RapidIdentity Next Steps:** Phase one baseline implementation of RapidIdentity is complete, but remaining work includes provisioning directly from RapidIdentity into Entra, removing Entra Connect components, handling guest accounts and global address lists, integrating Tyler through APIs, investigating Infinite Campus business integrations, removing Active Directory provisioning and ID bridges, and moving all cohorts to the unified platform to RapidIdentity.
- **Security And Standards:** Chuck said KDE would continue strengthening the secure-identity aspect of CUES, including cybersecurity improvements and more direct identity standards. Increased integrations and potential rostering with additional products will require greater uniformity across connected systems.
- **Active Directory Guide:** The plan is to release an Active Directory Decommissioning Planning Guide within weeks, followed by a detailed readiness guide with actions scheduled a month before, a week before, the day before, and the day of each transition. The overall completion target is June 30, 2028.
- **Infoblox Monitoring:** The Infoblox implementation is complete, and OET has begun monitoring and adjusting the environment with Volta and Infoblox to identify improvements before the broader decommissioning work proceeds.

(1:12:00) KAST Professional Learning Events: Zach Morris-Dean promoted the November 6 KAST Fall Event in Lexington and the March 10–12, 2027 KASTForward conference, including registration, sessions, and presentation opportunities.

- **Fall Event:** The KAST Fall Event, ***ForeKASTing the Future of EdTech***, will take place November 6 at Central Bank Center in Lexington. Registration by October 20 was requested to guarantee lunch.
- **Fall Agenda:** The event includes KDE and RapidIdentity sessions on cybersecurity and CUES, GoGuardian product updates, and afternoon sessions from Apple on device management, identity, and CUES and Forward Edge will be sharing their new educational offerings.

- **Spring Conference:** ***KASTForward*** is scheduled for March 10–12, 2027, in Louisville. Presentation proposal applications are open through November 14, with registration planned to open in November 2026.