KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/ Discussion Item:

FY 2015 Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Expenditure Plan

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 157.655
KRS 157.660
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KRS 156.670

Action Question:

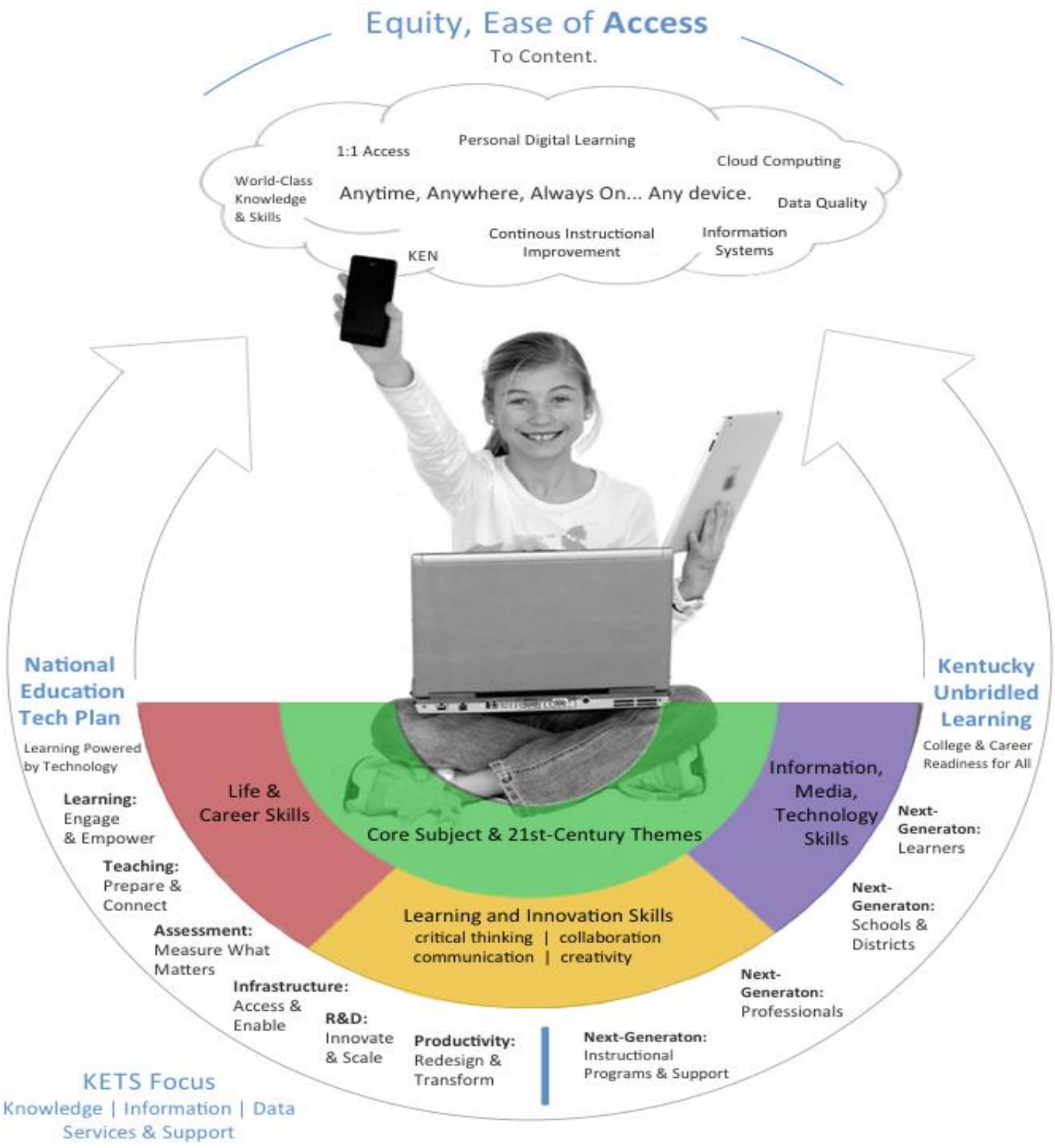
Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the KETS Expenditure Plan (FY 2015 KETS funds identified in the FY 2015 budget for KETS shared services and KETS Offers of Assistance)?

History/Background:

Existing Policy. The Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) 2013-2018 Master Plan for Education Technology highlights the integration of instruction with educational technology to transform the way curriculum is taught and provides students with ready access to technology, both inside and outside their classrooms. The driving force behind the Master Plan is ensuring that student classroom performance and students' preparedness for higher education, the military and the workforce is kept at the forefront of any educational initiative that involves technology. We have moved far past the time of implementing technology for technology's sake or as a system that does not have direct connections with teaching, learning, productivity, student work, communications, decision making and leadership.

The Master Plan includes four major areas of emphasis:

- Anytime, Anywhere, Always On Differentiated Teaching and Learning
- Data Driven Decision Making for Teachers and Administrators
- Capacity Building and Enhancement of Staff and Resources
- Efficiency and Governance



The KETS Master Plan 2013-2018 builds upon the state's past successes. The Master Plan describes how education technology will be used to improve teaching and learning for every child in Kentucky. Its goals are to ensure equity and ease of access to technology, enhance the learning experience in the classroom for students and prepare Kentucky's children to work in the Information Age after graduation.

There are a variety of federal, state, local and private funding sources that can address the $156M in basic unmet need that is identified in the 2013-2018 KETS Master Plan. The FY 2015 KETS Expenditure Plan addresses unmet need in the context of total cost of technology ownership including initial purchase, recurring costs needed to support implementation, continuous improvements in technology, and the professional capacity of teachers.

The KETS Trust Fund is one funding source that is used to reduce districts' unmet need. It was established in the Finance and Administration Cabinet by KRS 157.655(1) and is administered by the School Facilities Construction Commission to provide education technology for the public school system. Funds are appropriated to the Trust Fund in each biennial budget. All expenditures from the KETS Trust Fund require the initial approval of the Kentucky Board of Education (KRS 157.655(3)); this approval is accomplished through board approval of the KETS Expenditure Plan. Funds approved by the KBE, for an Offer of Assistance, project or service in a previous fiscal year, are not required to be approved again. Monies are drawn from the Trust Fund on a fiscal year basis.

The FY 2015 KETS Expenditure Plan (attached) establishes expenditure levels from the KETS Trust Fund for new FY 2015 KETS funds available for the KETS Offers of Assistance program as well as KETS Shared Discounted Services and projects for schools. State Shared Services for schools are those aspects of the KETS system that are provided as direct discounted services to districts and schools at no local cost. Offers of Assistance are sent and equally matched by local school districts. These funds are used in accordance with the KETS Master Plan, the local district's planning and unmet need. A detailed FY 2015 KETS budget summary is attached.

The KETS Expenditure Plan also addresses the federal, state and local funds beyond KETS funds that can go toward the $156M in FY 2015 unmet need. For example, the federal E-rate rebate funds, state coal severance funds, local district's match of KETS offers, and school facility construction funds all play a significant role in reducing all districts' unmet need.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff recommends approval of the attached FY 2015 KETS Expenditure Plan as presented. Approval will allow the department to precede with distribution of the FY 2015 KETS funds that have been identified for the new fiscal year.

Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

- Kentucky Society of Technology in Education
- District education technology leadership (e.g., Chief Information Officers, District Technology Coordinators, Chief Education Technology Officer) staff
- Education Technology Partners

These groups/individuals are in support of the FY 2015 KETS Expenditure Plan.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The annual KETS Shared Services and Offers of Assistance provide supplemental services and funding to each district to assist them in purchasing hardware, software, personnel, professional development and other technology items. They support administrators, teachers, and students in achieving proficiency, closing gaps, and increasing college/career readiness and graduation rates.

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Commissioner of Education

Date:

June 2014