

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**STAFF NOTE**

**Action/ Discussion Item:**

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Trust Fund - FY 2017 Allocation

**Commissioner's Recommendation:**

The Commissioner recommends that the board approve the disbursement of the FY 2017 KETS Trust Fund dollars in the amount of \$16.4M in accordance with KRS 156.655(3). This comes before the board annually.

**Rationale:**

To allow the department to proceed with the distribution to districts of the FY 2017 KETS Trust Funds identified for FY 2017.

**Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the disbursement of the KETS Trust Fund dollars in the amount of \$16.4M as outlined in the attached KETS Expenditure Plan (FY 2017 KETS funds identified in the FY 2017 budget for KETS shared services and KETS Offers of Assistance)?

**Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.670  
KRS 157.655  
KRS 157.660  
KRS 157.665

**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 of 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 are 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.

**Summary:** The goal of the KETS 2013-2018 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 goal of the KETS 2013-2018 Master Plan is to build 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 KETS 2013-2018 Master Plan. The FY 2017 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.

**Budget Impact:** 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 a KETS Offer of Assistance, project or service in a previous fiscal year, are not required to be approved again. Monies are drawn from the KETS Trust Fund on a fiscal year basis.

The FY 2017 KETS Expenditure Plan establishes expenditure levels from the KETS Trust Fund for new FY 2017 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. KETS Offers of Assistance are sent and equally matched by local school districts. These funds are used in accordance with the KETS Master Plan and the local district's technology plan. A detailed FY 2017 KETS budget summary is attached.

The FY 2017 KETS Expenditure Plan also includes the federal, state and local funds beyond KETS Trust Funds that can go toward the \$156M in FY 2017 unmet need. For example, the federal E-rate rebate funds, local district's match of KETS Offers of Assistance, and school facility construction funds all play a significant role in reducing all districts' unmet need. The additional funding sources that are listed in the FY 2017 KETS Expenditure Plan are not part of the KETS Trust Fund and, therefore, do not require the board's approval. All of the possible, additional funding sources for K-12

education technology products and services are only listed for the board's informational purposes so the board is aware of all of the possible funding sources beyond the KETS Trust Fund dollars that can go toward addressing the FY 2017 education technology needs of our K-12 customers.

**Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:**

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

These groups/individuals are in support of the FY 2017 KETS Trust Fund Allocation.

**Contact Person:**

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

August 2016