

**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**STAFF NOTE**

**Action/Discussion Item:**

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) FY 2018 Unmet Need for Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

**Commissioner's Recommendation:**

The Commissioner recommends that the FY 2018 KETS essential unmet need of \$156M be approved as presented.

**Rationale:**

To assure the board that the districts recommended by the Commissioner have met all of the statutory requirements of KRS 157.655 and KRS 157.660. This item comes before the board annually.

**Action Question:**

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the FY 2018 unmet education technology need of \$156M for school districts?

**Applicable Statute or Regulation:**

KRS 156.670  
KRS 156.690  
KRS 157.655  
KRS 157.660

**History/Background:**

***Existing Policy:*** According to KRS 157.655, the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) can provide a Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Offer of Assistance to a school district only after the state board approves the district's unmet need. Therefore, each fiscal year the KBE approves each district's technology unmet need.

***Summary:*** The Master Plan for Education Technology, which was originally approved in 1992, describes in detail the process for determining the KETS Offers of Assistance, the school planning process, the state review and assistance calculation methods, and examples of how data extracted from the plans relates to funds allocated to schools. The annual FY 2018 unmet need for each district is the amount needed to minimally operate, maintain, and incrementally upgrade

existing investments while also acquiring new and emerging technology. The FY 2018 unmet need is \$156M (i.e., approximately \$261 per student). This \$156M figure is derived from the 2013-2018 KETS Master Plan Budget that contains the initial acquisition cost, ongoing operational cost and average lifespan of each line item.

The KBE approved the six-year KETS Master Plan in October 2012. The Master Plan design and its corresponding budget involved extensive shareholder input. Focus groups included students, university admissions staff, district teachers, digital learning coaches, district technology leadership, state agency leadership and members of the business community. Because of the process used, more people provided direct input for the Master Plan than has ever occurred before. The process also included identifying line items that are essential to meet the most basic needs (i.e., \$156M), along with those line items that are discretionary (i.e., up to \$166M) that districts may optionally pursue to go above that basic unmet need (e.g., a 1 to 1 workstation ratio for secondary students). Historically, the annual KETS unmet need for school districts has been underfunded by approximately \$20M-\$50M per year. Therefore, it is essential to preserve the existing funding sources that are currently in place for the educational technology products and services that are used by all 173 school districts, while at the same time identifying other funding to make up that difference.

In addition, districts may pursue education initiatives that foster better levels of education technology service delivery than the minimum goals described in the Master Plan (e.g., lower workstation ratios to improve ease of access to electronic instructional content for all students, electronic projectors and interactive student devices in all classrooms for formative testing). These are considered optional versus required approaches in the KETS Master Plan that districts have the choice to implement.

The attached January 2017 KETS Infographic provides a visual depiction of analytics from multiple sources reflecting the varied technology trends taking place over the past year. KETS Offers of Assistance only represent part of the funding strategy needed to support each district's technology services. In the 2013-2018 KETS Master Plan and the FY 2018 KETS Expenditure Plan, we identify a variety of federal, state, local and private funds that can be used to pay for a district's unmet need.

The FY 2018 KETS Expenditure Plan helps make the board aware of a variety of FY 2018 funds that are available to go toward the FY 2018 unmet need. Districts will need to continue to secure alternative funding sources beyond the KETS funds (e.g., federal funds, local grants, corporate donations, etc.), to fully fund the unmet need. Over the FY 2010 through FY 2012, the KETS allocation, approved by the legislature through the budget language, was reduced from \$19.5M to \$16.4M. It has remained at the \$16.4M level since that time. During the 2018 legislative session, there will be an emphasis to raise the KETS funding back to the \$19.5M to address the most pressing areas of education technology growth and need.

The four basic categories of unmet need are operations, maintenance, incremental replacement and new technologies. Of the four categories, expenditures in Operations and Maintenance are

necessary to sustain current levels of service. That is, if unmet need within the Operations and Maintenance categories is not addressed in accordance with program guidelines, the integrity, sufficiency, and capacity of the district technology infrastructure will degrade until services are seriously curtailed or eliminated. These include items like student and teacher workstation repair, instructional software/services improvements, classroom printer repair, instructional file server repair, school and district management software improvements, initial/ongoing technology integration professional development, student technology leadership services, Internet instructional content/access, telephone communications to parents, distance learning service, help desk services, e-mail services, and enterprise data system access.

The unmet need for Incremental Replacement constitutes a framework for replacement of various technology components on a scheduled basis over time, in accordance with the life cycle of each item or service. These include items like student workstations, teacher workstations, instructional file servers, assistive and adaptive technology, school laser printers, classroom color printers, student hand-held devices, high-speed Internet connections between school buildings, digital projection devices, and wired and wireless networks within the school buildings.

***Budget Impact:*** The following must occur before a district receives its funding: (1) State board approves unmet need for each district, (2) School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) approves unmet need, (3) The district successfully meets all of the statutory requirements of KRS 157.655 and KRS 157.660, (4) the district verifies its final ADA count to KDE, and (5) KDE calculates the KETS Offers of Assistance based on these variables. The districts must follow requirements of the SFCC by receiving approved board action and proof of deposit of funds into a local interest bearing technology account. The SFCC will then wire funds to the district's technology account.

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

- Kentucky Society of Technology in Education (KySTE)
- Student Technology Leadership Program, including teachers, parents, and students
- District education technology leadership staff (e.g., Chief Information Officers, District Technology Coordinators, Chief Education Technology Officers)
- Assessment Interest Group
- Administration and Finance Interest Group
- Communications Interest Group
- Teaching and Learning Interest Group
- Education Technology Vendors/Partners

These groups/persons are in support of the approval of the KETS Master Plan Unmet Need.

**Contact Person:**

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stephen L. Pruitt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S".

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**Commissioner of Education**

**Date:**

June 2017