

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Discussion Item:

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) School Year (SY) 2018-2019 Needs for Local Education Agencies (LEAs)

Commissioner's Recommendation:

The Interim Commissioner recommends that the annual KETS education technology needs for SY 2018-2019 be approved as presented.

Rationale:

Staff certifies that the districts have met all the statutory requirements of KRS 157.655 and KRS 157.660. Districts are required to adequately identify their education technology needs and current KETS inventory to ensure SY 2018-2019 KETS services are provided to them without interruption and before SY 2018-2019 KETS offers of assistance are distributed to them. This item comes before the board annually.

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the annual education technology need for school districts for SY 2018-2019?

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.670
KRS 157.655
KRS 157.660
701 KAR 5:110

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 each school district only after the state board approves the annual education technology needs for the most current school year for all school districts. Since 1992, in either June or August of each year, board members are reminded of the annual KY K-12 education technology needs (i.e., up to \$366M) that are based upon the most current version of the KETS Master Plan (i.e., the 2018-2024 KETS Master Plan). As a reminder for this specific staff note, the KBE is only required to acknowledge and approve the annual KETS education technology need for the upcoming school

year. In the accompanying staff note, KBE members will be made aware of the federal, state and local funding sources that may also go toward addressing the KY K-12 statewide education technology needs during the next school year.

Summary: The SY 2018-2024 Master Plan Budget for Education Technology represents a statewide budgetary projection outlining the total cost of ownership for the primary technology components, services, and people needed to ensure ease of access to an equitable 21st century learning environment. In accordance with KRS 156.670, this budgetary projection establishes the baseline education technology **need** for all Kentucky public schools and districts and includes the annual costs to sustain the education technology shared services provided by KDE to all schools and districts statewide. Each Master Plan budget item represents an industry standard “best practice” approach as opposed to a requirement and carries the expectation that a wide variety of local, state and federal funding sources should be leveraged to address the ongoing need to implement and incrementally replace all technology components and services (701 KAR 5:110). This up to \$366M figure is derived from the 2018-2024 KETS Master Plan Budget that contains the initial acquisition cost, ongoing operational cost and average lifespan of each line item.

This budget projection does not reflect the additional technology components and/or services that districts choose to implement above and beyond the baseline need (*security cameras, video surveillance systems, environmental technology, personal data storage devices, smartphones, etc.*), but are recognized as flexible priorities that districts may address exclusively with available local and/or federal funding sources.

Each district is required to report overall implementation progress for all baseline technology components, services, and staffing on an annual basis. The annual statewide reporting cycle consists of three required components in order to participate in the statewide funding program:

1. District Technology Plan
2. Digital Readiness Survey
3. Technology Activity Report

The Master Plan budget also anticipates that as technology components and services continue to evolve, innovation will continue to reduce costs and/or possibly even reduce the dependency on a particular technology component. As an example, it’s expected that as end-user access to digital content increases, the reliance on printing services will naturally decrease over the six-year span of our current plan. Conversely, as the expectation of high-speed access to digital content continues to escalate, it is anticipated that the costs associated with Internet access will continue to increase at a moderate rate. The KY K-12 education technology need budget projection line item worksheet is found in Appendix H of the approved 2018-2024 KETS Master Plan.

The attached 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 2018-2024 KETS Master Plan and in the next staff note which contains the SY 2018-2019 KETS Expenditure Plan, we identify the KETS program services, subsequent annual KETS offers of assistance along with other federal, state and local funds that can be used to help address the district's annual education technology needs.

The SY 2018-2019 KETS Expenditure Plan in the next staff note makes the board aware of a variety of SY 2018-2019 funds that are available to go toward the SY 2018-2019 education technology needs. Districts will need to continue to secure alternative funding sources beyond the KETS funds. This includes federal funds, local grants, corporate donations, etc. to fully fund their education technology needs.

Since 2010, the KETS allocation, approved by the legislature through their budget language, has been steadily reduced from \$19.5M to \$15.4M. Similarly, the previous and most recent budget cuts have also impacted our KY K-12 Internet funds (aka KEN) during a time over the past two years where there has been a 140% increase in Internet usage by our students and teachers. During the 2020 legislative session, there must be a sense of urgency emphasis (a) to restore the KETS funding cut back to at least its original amount that was allocated in 1992 (i.e., \$19.5M) and (b) to restore the KY K-12 Internet services funding cut (aka KEN) back to \$18.4M per year to address the most pressing areas of education technology growth and need of our school districts.

Budget Impact: The following must occur before a district receives its funding: (1) State board approves the education technology needs for each district, (2) School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) approves the education technology 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.

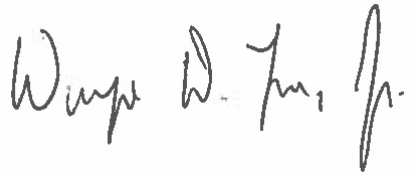
Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

- KY K-12 Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC)
- KY K-12 district education technology leadership staff (e.g., Chief Information Officers, District Technology Coordinators, Chief Education Technology Officers)
- Kentucky Society of Technology in Education (KySTE)
- Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)
- All KDE office representatives in our Technology Planning Committee and senior leaders
- KY K-12 education technology vendors and partners (e.g., KY K-12 educational cooperatives).

These groups/persons are in support of the approval of the annual KETS Master Plan education technology need that has been identified for the upcoming school year.

Contact Person:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne D. Furr, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Interim Commissioner of Education

Date:

August 2018