

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/ Discussion Item:

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Trust Fund – School Year (SY) 2018-2019 Allocation

Commissioner’s Recommendation:

The Interim Commissioner recommends that the board approve the use and disbursement of the SY 2018-2019 KETS Trust Fund dollars in the amount of \$15.4M in accordance with KRS 157.665(3).

Rationale:

To allow the department to proceed with the use and distribution of the KETS Trust Funds identified for SY 2018-2019. This item comes before the board annually.

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) approve the use and disbursement of the SY 2018-2019 KETS Trust Fund dollars in the amount of \$15.4M as outlined in the attached SY 2018-2019 KETS Expenditure Plan 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) SY 2018-2024 Master Plan for Education Technology highlights the administrative technology (or school efficiency technology) as well as the integration of instruction with educational technology to transform the way curriculum is delivered and provides students with access to technology. The driving force behind the Master Plan is ensuring that student classroom performance and students’ preparedness for professional certifications, 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 KETS SY 2018-2024 Master Plan includes seven major areas of emphasis. The areas of emphasis established through a strategic planning process are intended to highlight the groundbreaking progress made over KETS program history and continue placing major emphasis on this work as a primary goal. Additionally, this will help prevent duplicate initiatives, which

create confusion and lost time, while simultaneously focusing energy on areas of improvement in order to get better.

These areas will focus efforts during the life of this Master Plan to continue the delivery of quality, opportunity and access to students and staff:

- Robust Infrastructure and Ecosystem
- Data Security, Safety and Privacy
- Budget and Resources
- Partnerships
- Digital Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Personalized Professional Learning
- Use of Space and Time

One main objective of the KETS 2018-2024 Master Plan is to recognize and build upon the state's past successes (Appendix G of the 2018-2024 KETS Master Plan). 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 up to \$366M in unmet need that is identified in the KETS SY 2018-2024 Master Plan. The SY 2018-2019 KETS Expenditure Plan addresses education technology need in the context of total cost of technology ownership including initial purchase, recurring costs needed to support implementation, continuous improvements in technology, professional capacity of teachers, and the people side of technology.

Budget Impact: The KETS Trust Fund is one funding source that is used to address districts' education technology need. It was established in the Finance and Administration Cabinet by KRS 157.665(1) and is administered by the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC) 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 157.665(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.

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 (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 \$18.3M per year to address the most pressing areas of education technology growth and need of our school districts.

The SY 2018-2019 KETS Expenditure Plan establishes expenditure levels from the KETS Trust Fund for new SY 2018-2019 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.

The SY 2018-2019 KETS Expenditure Plan also includes the federal, state and local funds beyond KETS Trust Funds that can go toward the up to \$366M in SY 2018-2019 education technology needs. 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 a district's education technology needs.

The additional funding sources that are listed in the SY 2018-2019 KETS Expenditure Plan are not part of the KETS Trust Fund and, therefore, do not require the board's approval. All of the other 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 SY 2018-2019 education technology needs of our K-12 customers.

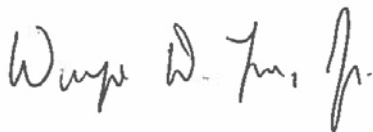
Groups Consulted and Brief Summary of Responses:

- District chief information officers (CIOs) and education technology leaders - The CIO or edtech leader represents education technology at the district level educating and receiving feedback from the Superintendent and other district leadership
- Kentucky Society of Technology in Education
- KDE Commissioner, KDE Associate Commissioners and their representatives on KDE's Technology Planning Council (TPC) - The TPC provides representation, input and feedback from all KDE offices
- Kentucky K-12 Educational Cooperatives

These groups/individuals are in support of the SY 2018-2019 KETS Trust Fund Allocation.

Contact Person:

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Interim Commissioner of Education

Date:

August 2018