

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

Topic: Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Operational Plan for School Year (SY) 2019-2020

Date: August 2019

Action Requested: Review Action/Consent Action/Discussion

Held In: Full Board Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
 Finance Operations Management

SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action/approve the use and disbursement of the SY 2019-2020 KETS operational plan in the amount of \$15.4M. This item has come before the board annually since 1992.

COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends that the board approve the SY 2019-2020 KETS operational management resources of \$15.4M in accordance with KRS 157.665(3) to help address the KY K-12 education technology operational management needs.

APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 156.670, KRS 157.655, KRS 157.660 and KRS 157.665

BACKGROUND:

Existing Policy:

The 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 of Issue:

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:

1. Robust Infrastructure and Ecosystem
2. Data Security, Safety and Privacy
3. Budget and Resources
4. Partnerships
5. Digital Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
6. Personalized Professional Learning
7. 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 (see The History of Education Technology in Kentucky Schools, a.k.a. KETS 1992-2019 Timeline). 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 resources that can address the technology operational management need identified in the KETS SY 2018-2024 Master Plan. The SY 2019-2020 KETS Operational Plan addresses education technology need in the context of technology ownership including initial acquisition, recurring operational management needed to support implementation, continuous improvements in technology, professional capacity of teacher and the people side of technology.

Budget Impact:

The KETS Trust Fund is one resource used to address districts' education technology operational management 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 by legislation. 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 Operational Plan. Resources 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 SY 2019-2020 KETS Operational Plan establishes expenditure levels from the KETS Trust Fund for new SY 2019-2020 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 2019-2020 KETS Operational Plan also includes the federal, state and local resources that can go toward the SY 2019-2020 education technology needs. For example, the federal E-rate rebates, local district's match of KETS Offers of Assistance, and school facility construction funds all play a significant role in annually addressing a district's education technology needs.

The resources beyond the \$15.4M listed in the SY 2019-2020 KETS Operational Plan are not part of the KETS Trust Fund and, therefore, do not require the board's approval; they are only listed for the board's informational purposes so the board is aware of all of the possible funding resources beyond the KETS resources that can go toward addressing the SY 2019-2020 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 the state's K-12 Internet funds during a time over the past five years where there has been a 140% increase in Internet usage by our students and teachers. During the 2020 legislative session, there is a need to address the additional budget request (ABR) for the following reasons:

1. To address the rapid annual increase in the numbers (e.g., districts going to 1 to 1) and types of tech devices (e.g., HVAC using the Internet, phones over the Internet, school safety devices that use the Internet) and services (e.g., KY K-12 Internet bandwidth service) being used by over 750,000 KY K-12 students & adults for instructional, communication, physical safety, cybersafety and cybersecurity purposes;
2. To address the needs of schools for online daily formative testing, intermediate/quarterly testing and end of year high-stakes summative testing that provide quick feedback/results to both students and teachers;
3. To help properly address the people side of edtech in districts so there are the right number of technicians, digital learning coaches and other basic edtech leadership responsibilities in districts (data accuracy, cybersecurity/cybersafety/cyberprivacy, strategic planning, emerging technology) that help ensure the school technology is kept reliable for students and teachers, is maximized in instruction, is cybersecure/cybersafe and is of high quality (e.g., data);
4. To restore the significant cuts (i.e., \$5M+) of over the past 10 years to the basic KY K-12 edtech funding. The legislature has provided a KETS allocation each year since the Kentucky Education Reform Act which remained at \$19.5 million from SY 1992-SY 2009. Through a series of budget reductions, the KETS allocation was reduced to \$15.4 million from SY2013-SY2019; and,
5. There have been zero increases in basic cost of living costs to KETS since 1992 which is very unrealistic if the expectation to maintain basic high quality services for schools and districts.

GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:

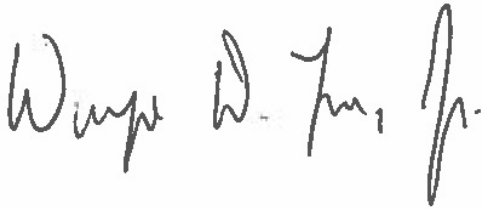
- KY K-12 Local Superintendents Advisory Council (LSAC) through approval of the KETS SY 2018-2024 Master Plan for Education Technology

- 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 (KySTE)
- 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 2019-2020 KETS trust fund allocation.

CONTACT PERSON(S):

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Commissioner of Education

Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District Innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Strengthening Educators <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Family/Community Involvement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student/Family Supports <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Student Interventions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Coursework Completion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accountability Reporting
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