# Fwd: Final update related to KY K-12 EdTech and the western KY tornados

1 message

**Tackett, Julian** <jtackett@khsaa.org>                                    Sun, Jan 2, 2022 at 11:20 AM
To: Kara Howard <khoward@khsaa.org>

Please print this email and put in attachments for the board meeting in January under the esports update

---------- Forwarded message ---------
From: **Couch, David - KDE Associate Commissioner** <david.couch@education.ky.gov>
Date: Tue, Dec 21, 2021 at 12:41 PM
Subject: Final update related to KY K-12 EdTech and the western KY tornados
To: All State CIOs <kycio@education.ky.gov>, KDE Office of Education Technology <kdeoet@education.ky.gov>, KETS Partners <ketsvendorpartners@education.ky.gov>, All State Cooperative Directors <kdecoopdir@education.ky.gov>, jtackett@khsaa.org <jtackett@khsaa.org>, Joe Angolia <jangolia@khsaa.org>, Rob Catron <rcatron@khsaa.org>, Meyer, Dennis - AT&T <dm7809@att.com>, mm8431@att.com <mm8431@att.com>, gi3449@att.com <gi3449@att.com>, Hochstrasser, Emil - AT&T <eh7851@att.com>


Final update until next calendar year:


1. **KDE's Internet hub in 171 districts. As of Saturday (December 18) morning, all 171 KY school districts had and still have power/Internet to KDE's Internet hub** that is located in the most centralized school district owned location in the district.


2. In the 6 months prior to the pandemic beginning, through the pandemic and now with the recent western Kentucky tornados, **all our KY K-12 cloud based Internet services (financial management services through Munis, school information management services through Infinite Campus, e-mail services through Microsoft 365 and Google, etc.) have been up and available to all 171 districts 99.999% of the time.** KY K-12 being a national leader in cloud services is an edge that KY K-12 has on the other 49 states, which comes in very handy in both normal conditions and during our most recent disaster recovery situations.


3. **KY K-12 schools connecting to KDE's Internet hub.** There are approximately 1532 KY K-12 public schools connecting to KDE's Internet hub in 171 public school districts. **As of this afternoon, it appears only 3 of those 1532 schools won't have Internet access today as a result of the recent western KY tornadoes**. As of yesterday, only Bowling Green Independent (2 elementary schools) and Graves County (4 elementary schools) didn't have power and/or connectivity to KDE's Internet hub in their district due to the tornados. In Bowling Green, it's our understanding that the priority of their local last mile Internet service provider is to restore Internet connectivity to their local industrial park next to the Corvette Museum & GRECC. Therefore, those last two Bowling Green schools will hopefully have their fiber service to KDE's Internet hub restored by next week. In Graves County, it appears 3 of those 4 elementary schools will be back up today. The remaining elementary school will hopefully be restored before school resumes after the Christmas and holiday break.

4. Bowling Green Independent had 601 students displaced due to the tornado. Lenovo has reached out to the district about providing brand new Chromebooks for all displaced students.

5. Last Friday night, the Bowling Green High School eSports team traveled to Lexington to play in the KHSAA state eSports championship game hosted at UK. Their eSports team (with no electricity or Internet for a week, thus no practice time) won and became state champions. The struggles those kids went through last week was immense but they still brought home the championship trophy to Bowling Green. The championship game was lived streamed by the KHSAA and the Bowling Green EdTech staff had a Christmas/eSports state championship watching party to take a mental break and fellowship with each other as they cheered on their students. Congrats to the Purples!



6. Caldwell County school's phone service is still out due to the tornadoes. We have gotten involved with their phone service provider to try to help get it back up.

7. No one contacted me about the Smartboards and projectors that I mentioned yesterday in the e-mail below. A Missouri school district is offering their Smartboards and projectors to any KY district that had theirs damaged due to the recent western KY tornados. So unless I here from someone today, I'm going to let this Missouri school district know that we greatly appreciate their offer, however they are not needed at this time.

Take care.

**David Couch**

Associate Commissioner and KY K-12 Chief Information Officer (CIO)

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**From:** Couch, David - KDE Associate Commissioner
**Sent:** Monday, December 20, 2021 8:24 AM
**To:** All State CIOs; KDE Office of Education Technology; KETS Partners; All State Cooperative Directors
**Subject:** Update related to KY K-12 EdTech and the western KY tornados


Here is an update, related to KY K-12 EdTech services and the tornadoes in western KY, as of this morning.


- On the Saturday morning of Dec 11th, 37 districts of our 171 districts were without power/Internet to KDE's Internet hub that is located in the most centralized school district owned location in the district. On the Saturday morning of Dec 18<sup>th</sup>, all 171 districts had power/Internet to KDE's Internet hub. Mayfield came back up on early Saturday morning. Thanks to all that helped make that happen for these 37 districts.

- As of last Friday morning, there were three districts (Graves County schools, Warren County schools and Bowling Green Independent schools) that had one or multiple schools in their district that (a) either didn't have power/or and a fiber line connecting to KDE's Internet hub in their district due to the

tornados. These 3 districts are looking at possible interim/temporary wired and wireless solutions to connect their schools to KDE's Internet hub in their district until their primary Internet fiber lines can be restored, which is hopefully soon. In Mayfield Independent and Dawson Springs Independent, their fiber between their schools was not damaged due to being buried fiber lines versus aerial fiber lines.

- All districts, including those most impacted by the tornados, were able to do their payroll on time for their staff.  All KY K-12 cloud technology enabled services were up and available to all 171 districts. So Munis, IC, Microsoft/Google email, Google Classroom, PBS Learning Media through KET, etc., were up and available to all 171 districts from a variety of last mile wireless and wired Internet locations (e.g., from a neighboring district, from a neighboring home, their Smartphone, home Internet, nearby library, etc.) that could get Internet access.

- Since we have many new folks in EdTech leadership/staff positions in districts and OET staff positions since 2011, we want to take this opportunity to inform and educate you on how special KY K-12 is compared to the other 49 states regarding our ability to do what Dawson Springs did last week at Hopkins County (i.e., running payroll for Dawson Springs staff from a Hopkins County location) and Mayfield (processing payroll effectively and securely from a nearby home). Since 1995, KY K-12 is the only state in the nation that has a K-12 product standard for a KY K-12 Internet service and a financial management system for all its districts. This means all our district's staff are familiar with Tyler Technologies Munis when the transitioning or sharing data between KY K-12 school districts through our KY K-12 Internet service.  Having a state KY K-12 product standard for both our KY K-12 Internet service (aka KIH3) and financial management system, later helped KY K-12 become "the" first and largest enterprise cloud based commercial financial management system in the US in 2013 (Kentucky Moves 173 School Districts to Cloud-Based ERP -- THE Journal). So, no other state K-12 beyond KY has the ability for all their districts to immediately continue to provide payroll during a disaster by going to a neighboring district or from any location that has Internet access. Having a cloud based financial management system came in very handy during previous ice storms and fires in KY K-12 districts since 2013, including now with the recent tornados. Our primary cloud location for Tyler Technologies Munis is in Maine with a back-up site in Dallas. We simulate a disaster and test the primary in Maine and backup location in Dallas regularly, so they are prepared and ready for normal day to day operations and sudden/unexpected disaster. So, I want to thank all those that have helped us since 2011 when we began that journey to the Munis cloud for all our school districts. Starting this effort 10 years ago with Tyler Technologies Munis and our KY K-12 districts, has helped make this tornado, a little less of a disaster for districts, so their staff can reliably be paid.
- We realize and are very thankful that the tornados did nearly zero damage to the technology inside KY K-12 school buildings. However, KY K-12 students and staff in districts that took their school district provided laptops home have had x number of them damaged and destroyed. Our KETS vendor partners stand ready to expedite getting them replaced.

- I'm not aware of any KY K-12 school district that had their Smartboards or projectors damaged/destroyed due to the tornados. However, if you did, please let me know. There is a school district in Missouri that contacted me on Friday with some that they are willing to donate to a KY school district that had theirs damaged/destroyed due to the recent tornados.

Hope you all have a great Christmas and Holliday break. Take care.

…There is nothing that is more suddenly devastating and deadly than a tornado or flash flood that quickly & unexpectedly pops up. I speak from experience, there is nothing scarier than not being able to see but knowing & hearing a tornado at night that is close by & hoping/praying it misses you. You never forget a tornado that hits or barely misses you. There are things that must be done immediately; however, it is a long and steady process of recovery that usually takes years.

All our OET field staff and district CIOs/EdTech staff in the areas hit by the tornado are accounted for and thankfully not seriously harmed. However, x number of them have lost/damaged homes, lost pets/animals and had relatives perish or lose their homes.

In the heaviest populated areas along the tornado's path, Mayfield and Dawson Springs have taken a massive direct hit. Parts of Bowling Green and the town of Bremen in Muhlenberg County were also hit very hard. I'm sure there are other towns negatively impacted that I'm not aware of yet. Given this tornado stayed on the ground for so long, many fences, livestock, farms, homes and phone/fiber Internet poles along the tornado's path in the most rural areas are also seriously damaged. Therefore, the fiber infrastructure located in the most rural part of a county could impact other parts of that county and even parts of a neighboring county. We originally had 37 of our KY K-12 public school districts down at 6 am on Saturday morning, but now 7 districts are still without power and/or Internet to their KDE Internet Hub at the most centralized district building in the district. We are in the process of trying to locate the exact location of the break in the KY K-12 Internet fiber line of these last 7 districts (Bowling Green, Caldwell County, Dawson Springs, Fulton County, Graves County, Marshall County, Mayfield). Could be a middle mile Internet issue far from the district's school or last mile Internet issue very close to it.

All our KY K-12 cloud based instructional, administrative and operational services are up and available to all 171 districts. However, folks in a district may need to temporary use the Internet service at a neighboring school facility, home, public library, etc., until power/Internet is restored to their district office, specific schools or homes within their district.

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Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

*"If I were to try to read, much less answer, all the attacks made on me, this shop might as well be closed for any other business. I do the very best I know how - the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so until the end. If the end brings me out all right, what's said against me won't amount to anything. If the end brings me out wrong, ten angels swearing I was right would make no difference." -Abraham Lincoln*
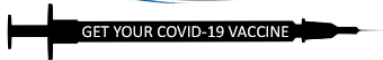
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**#ShotatSports**

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**2 attachments**

 **image003.jpg**
6K

 **image004.png**
24K