

## KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STAFF NOTE

**Topic:** Traceable Communication System

**Date:** August 2025

**Action Requested:**    Review    Action/Consent    Action/Discussion

**Held In:**    Full Board    State Schools    United We Learn

### SUMMARY OF ISSUE BEFORE THE BOARD:

To take action on the traceable communication system for the Office of Career and Technical Education.

### COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Commissioner recommends approval of the traceable communication system.

### APPLICABLE STATUTE OR REGULATION:

KRS 160.145

### BACKGROUND:

#### *Summary of Issue:*

During the 2025 legislative session, Senate Bill 181, AN ACT relating to children, passed requiring each local board of education to designate a traceable communication system to be the exclusive means for school administrators, classified or certified employees of the school district, school volunteers, nonfaculty coaches or assistant coaches, student teachers, and sponsors of extracurricular programs or activities, to communicate with students. The traceable communication system must trace all communications sent to or by a student and provide parents an opportunity to access and review those communications.

The Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) employees that fall under KRS 160.145 (RS25 SB181) must use approved methods to communicate with students. Since Area Technology Center (ATC) staff serve home district students, may serve students from multiple school districts, and offer dual credit opportunities, multiple electronic communication systems may be necessary. Additionally, Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSO) offer co-curricular opportunities for students in CTE pathways to develop knowledge and skills by participating in activities, events, and competitions. CTSO state advisors also need ways to communicate through electronic means with students before, during, and after these co-curricular activities. All electronic communication between students and teachers/volunteers must occur through traceable systems. These include:

- OCTE traceable communication system
- Local board-approved traceable communication systems

All electronic communication channels must comply with KRS 160.145 (RS25 SB181) and be

part of an approved traceable communication system.

The Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) has determined the traceable communication system will include the following: school email, Kentucky Department of Education email, Infinite Campus (IC), and any traceable communication system approved by students' local boards of education.

*Budget Impact:*

The budgetary impact is unknown.

**GROUPS CONSULTED AND BRIEF SUMMARY OF RESPONSES:**

KDE's Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) and the KDE Office of Legal Services (OLS) determined the communication system for the OCTE.

**CONTACT PERSON(S):**

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**Commissioner of Education**

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