

**Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS)
2026-2027 Operational Plan**

The State Shared Discounted Services categories and the estimated expenditure amounts associated with each in the 2026-2027 KETS Operational Plan are:

Instructional/Administrative Software Maintenance Licenses that are for or go directly to School Districts	\$1.5M
Financial Management System (MUNIS), Student/Teacher Technology Usage Analytics, Microsoft Network Licensing	
Instructional/Administrative Systems Operations and Maintenance Services that Students, Teachers and Staff Depend on Daily	\$7.0M
Help Desk Service (Levels 1-3, KDE and Vendor Partners), Customer Relationship and Resource Management (e.g., KETS Field Staff), Student Technology Leadership, Digital Learning Coach Services	
Administrative Systems Operations and Maintenance that are regularly used by Teachers, Staff or School District Leadership	\$1.9M
School Report Card Suite, Kentucky Educator Placement Service, District Digital Readiness Survey, Student Voice, Open House	
KETS Leadership, Planning, Management, Research and Evaluation	\$1.6M
KETS Engineering, KETS Vendor Management, KETS Planning, KETS Product Testing and Evaluation, KETS Project Management	
SY 2026-2027 Funds for KETS State Shared Discounted Services (subtotal of above lines)	\$12.0M
SY 2026-2027 Funds from OET for the KETS Offers of Assistance for all districts projected as	\$3.4M
Grand Total SY 2026-2027 KETS Trust Fund Allocation from the Legislature	\$15.4M

In addition to the KETS Trust Fund Allocation, the SY 2026-2027 Operational Plan includes other local, state and federal funding resources that can address the KETS unmet need:

Possible federal E-rate rebates on KDE-provided Internet services through the K-12 internet services to all school districts that are projected as **\$9.6M**. These resources will be used for the following:

- KETS Offers of Assistance that will go from OET to school districts projected to be \$7.2M.
- KDE technology infrastructure updates projected as \$0.6M.
- Student Information System State Portion projected as \$1.6M.
- E-rate Management and Administration projected as \$0.2M.

Interest gained on the KETS Trust Fund and Escrow account that will also go toward KETS Offers to school districts. This is projected as **\$1.3M**.

Supplemental KETS Offers of Assistance that will also go to school districts from savings and/or unallocated funds. This is projected as **\$2.8M**.

Local district funds that are used to equally match KETS Offers of Assistance funds. This is projected as **\$14.7M**.

Federal E-rate that districts apply for themselves that are sent directly to districts through the federal E-Rate program. This is projected as **\$45.5M**.

Kentucky K-12 Internet Resources: The state legislature appropriated **\$17.2M** in annual operational resources to support the continued growth of the high-speed K-12 Internet network used by KDE and all Kentucky school districts.

- In 1995, Kentucky became the first state in the nation to provide high speed Internet services to every school district. KDE provides equity of Internet access speed, price, and service to every one of the 171 school districts through a highly available and high-quality fiber network. Based on previous surveys of all 171 Kentucky school district education technology leaders, the reliability and speed of the Kentucky Education Network (KEN) continues to exceed expectations in support of instructional practices. This high level of satisfaction is important as it allows students, teachers and staff reliable Internet access to resources/content, on-line testing sites, and cloud-based systems such as the student information system, email/communication tools, and financial management system. Additionally, many school districts utilize cloud-based management of security, facilities and school safety technologies, which need reliable Internet access to facilitate these critical systems. The 2026-2027 school year will be the 4th year of the 10-year Next Generation K-12 Internet (NGKI) contract that continues to provide a minimum access of 1 Mbps per student statewide.
- To provide a safe and secure infrastructure for all K-12 students, teachers and staff, Kentucky K-12 Internet is fortified by firewalls, a variety of Internet defense/protection services and an Internet Content Management System on the school campus and beyond the school campus. This also meets Senate Bill 230, 701 KAR 5:120 and

Federal Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) regulations that are required for (a) KDE to meet state Internet safety/security requirements for K-12 students/adults and (b) for K-12 t to receive up to an estimated \$55.1M in federal E-rate rebate (KDE-\$9.6M, school districts-\$45.5M).

Kentucky K-12 Computer Science and IT Academy prepares educators and students for industry-recognized certifications. This is projected as **\$760K**.

State School Facility Construction Resources for new construction or renovations that can go toward: (1) internal wiring of voice, video and data lines within the school, (2) phone systems (including phone handsets), and (3) electronic projectors/boards or televisions. This is approximately **\$15M** per year.

Contingency available in the KETS Trust Fund. This is projected as **\$1.0M**.

KDE Program Area Resources: The following are used to directly support instructional and administrative systems for K-12 customers; Office of Education Technology (OET) Operational Resources, Child Nutrition Information Payment Systems (CNIPS), School and Community Nutrition (SCN) Point of Sale, Technology Education Database System (TEDS), Ky Summative Assessments (KSA), School Report Card Dashboard, Continuous Improvement Platform (eProve), Grant Management System, eTranscripts, Student Data Review & Roster (SDRR), Kentucky Facility Inventory and Classification System (KFICS), Kentucky Educator Certification and Ethics System, Kentucky Educator Placement System (KEPS+), Kentucky School for The Deaf and Kentucky School for the Blind Technology, Area Technology Centers Technology, Professional Learning Management System, Support Education Excellence in Kentucky (SEEK), KDE Managed Print Services, EMARS and KHRIS, Title IVA. This is approximately **\$15.2M** per year.

The total for all resources (KETS Trust Fund and other local, state and federal) listed above is \$138.5M.

Additional resources available as reported by school districts that can go toward technology services for students estimated at \$297.6M:

Other resources that may be available to go towards technology services would include Special Education Funds, SEEK Funds, Corporate Donations, Local District General/Tax Funds, other Federal Funds (not technology specific) and Local Fund Raisers.

The Grand Total for all funding sources available to school districts is \$436.1M.