KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

Final Closure of Phase I of KETS in Kentucky schools

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.160(1), KRS 156.160(3), KRS 156.166, KRS 156.166(7), KRS 156.670, KRS
156.670(1), KRS 156.670(3), KRS 156.670(4), KRS 156.670(7), KRS 157.330, KRS
157.360(1), KRS 157.650, KRS 157.660(1), KRS 157.660(2), KRS 157.655(3), KRS
157.665(1), KRS 157.665(2), 701 KAR 5:110

History/Background:

Existing Policy. Implementation of Kentucky's Master Plan for Education Technology
began in 1992 after formal adoption by the Kentucky Board of Education. As part of
education reform, the General Assembly provided legislative authority and funding for
substantial investment in the area of education technology. The Master Plan for
Education Technology is incorporated by reference into 701 KAR 5:110 and is in
compliance with KRS 156.160(1).

The 1998-2000 Master Plan Update for Education Technology set forth strategic
priorities to assist schools and districts in finishing their Kentucky Education Technology
System (KETS) Phase I technology implementation. The 1998-2000 Master Plan Update
described how technology would be used to improve teaching and learning for every
Kentucky child as a component of a much broader systemic education reform: (1) to
ensure equal access to technology for all students, teachers, and administrators; (2) to
enable students to use technology to become independent life-long learners; (3) to
empower teachers to use technology as a tool; (4) to develop a network for voice, video,
Internet and data that will connect all computers in every classroom, school, and district
to global networks; and (5) to prepare Kentucky's children to work in the Information
Age.

Recognizing that direction would be needed by schools and districts in fulfilling these
education reform components, KETS standardized certain areas in districts through the
use of the districts' technology plans to facilitate the process being completed in a timely,
efficient manner. Areas that KETS standardized included:

- ✓ One high-performance, networked computer for every six students
- ✓ One high-performance, networked computer for every teacher and the ability to
  access the network from home
- ✓ Every school with a building-wide, full-functioning local area network

- ✓ Every classroom with network drops delivering data services, Internet and e-mail
- ✓ A phone in every classroom
- ✓ Video in every classroom
- ✓ Every school directly connected to the wide-area network
- ✓ Every district office with complete local and wide-area networking
- ✓ Instructional software available to every desktop from the network
- ✓ Technology training and support for all teachers
- ✓ Technology training incorporated into the professional development program as defined by the school's Comprehensive Plan
- ✓ Standards-based technology applications implemented for school/student management systems, administrative systems, statewide information, office services, and communication services
- ✓ Uniform coding and accounting structures and a standard system of financial management implemented

With these facts in mind, the KETS Master Plan Update approved by the KBE in April 1998 expected 100% of classrooms, schools and districts to have completed all of the above goals by now through a variety of funding sources: local funds, state funds, federal technology funds and discounts obtained from the Universal Service Fund. More students, teachers, and administrators were to have had greater exposure to a multitude of instructional tools once the Phase I items were made available to them.

KETS Phase I Status:

KBE has reviewed an update on the completion of Phase I as an agenda item at every KBE meeting beginning in June 2001. Once districts have purchased technology tools, they should be activated and school leaders, teachers and students made aware of their existence and trained on their communication, instructional and administrative capabilities to effectively enhance the learning experience and skills of students. Success also depends on students and teachers having sufficient, convenient, consistent and frequent access to and use of these modern learning tools with each content area being taught. The tools cannot be used to maximum capacity until each of these occurs. KDE mainly relies on the school district to: (1) inform their customers that the purchased product is available for their immediate use, (2) ensure there is ease of access to those tools, (3) train their customers on the tool, and (4) champion these new communication and learning tools within their district.

Kentucky boasts many school districts that have championed technology in their classrooms and are now serving as role models for the rest of the state and indeed, much of the nation. However, there is still closure that must still occur with Jefferson County in the area of financial management data systems.

KETS Phase I Closure:

In FY2001 every district superintendent, local board chairperson, and district technology leader acknowledged that they were aware of the requirements of Phase I. This was after

every district went through an extensive Phase I reconciliation process in FY2000 with KDE staff that examined in great detail the district's current KETS funds in the local bank, the funds it had in the KETS escrow bank account, federal technology funds available, the Phase I technology inventory each currently had in place and the remaining KETS Phase I funds the district was entitled to in order to complete all KETS Phase I objectives. Each district that had a remaining KETS Phase I unmet need after that reconciliation process was sent a final KETS Phase I offer of assistance for that remaining balance, so each remaining KETS Phase I item could be purchased. The KBE approved these KETS offers of assistance, as it has all other previous offers of assistance.

During the KBE full board meeting in February 2003, KBE directed KDE to notify districts that all requirements of Phase I were to be completed by July 2003. This notification has occurred in writing and with direct voice-to-voice conversations with every district that had not yet completed closure of Phase I of KETS. In August, it was reported to KBE that every district, with the exception of Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) (see next paragraph), indicated that they have all KETS Phase I components purchased and activated as defined by KBE.

Jefferson County Phase I Status:

The only exception to the July 2003 date mentioned in the paragraph above is JCPS. JCPS was given until August 2003 to have STI fully in place and December 2004 to have MUNIS fully in place. JCPS has issued a moratorium on all internal software development by its staff on projects that would provide similar functionality to STI and MUNIS. They appear to have their internal staff almost totally focused on making the transition to the STI and MUNIS products.

STI:
As of June 30th, STIOffice has been installed in every school in JCPS. This means every school in Kentucky now has STIOffice software. This makes Kentucky the first state in the nation to have a standardized product for school and student data management for every school in the state. Data conversion from the previous JCPS school data system was converted to STI data elements before each school opened. Every school is presently using STI as their primary school and student management system for the entire FY04 school year. All appropriate district office staff, all school principals, all school clerks and nearly all school counselors have been trained. Attendees of the STI training rate the quality of training at an average score of 4.6 out of possible 5.0. The STIDistrict (district-level STI data accumulator) that collects data from each school is in place; however, network and virus issues have prevented some of the data collection from schools. JCPS staff is working to clean up the virus issues.

MUNIS:
The MUNIS Finance modules, including the two optional modules purchased by JCPS (Inventory and Work Orders) were successfully implemented on July 3. Staffs from both KDE and MUNIS are on-site in support roles to assist JCPS staff with the transition. JCPS staff are to be commended for their commitment in making the July

implementation date not only attainable but also successful. JCPS will be submitting required state reports from MUNIS. Work continues in the areas of Payroll and Personnel to identify programming changes. Implementation for Payroll and Personnel is targeted for July 2004. Team members continue to work cooperatively with common objectives to accomplish the overall project completion by December 2004.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

The equity and access issues related to implementation of the KETS standards in an efficient and timely manner is essential if every child is to achieve at the proficient level.

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Date:

October 2003