The History of Education Technology in Kentucky Schools

Technology Assistance Team
A Technology Assistance team was established in every geographic region of the state consisting of a KETS Engineer (KE) and an instructional leader. This team played a crucial role in establishing the awesome customer relationship that KDE has with districts today.

Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)
First in the nation to establish and provide a spotlight for students using technology to learn or help their school/community

Model Districts Selected
Eight model sites, strategically located across the state, selected to demonstrate how KETS would bring life to the vision of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA/1)

First KDE Website
Created to provide enhanced communications to schools, districts, parents, researchers, other organizations and the general public

KETS Standardized on Ethernet
Adopted the Ethernet networking standard over Token Ring as the primary standard for school and district technology networks due to Ethernet components being much more affordable

Federal E-rate Program
Kentucky was the best-positioned state in the nation to take advantage of this new federal funding opportunity because of the state and district education technology plans and existing statewide education technology contracts for eligible components. Kentucky schools have received over $545 million for telecommunications lines, Internet access and networking components since 1998 and remains among the top states in the nation in E-rate funds received. State Erate Reimbursement Funds funnel to districts as KETS offers of assistance (where they are matched 1:1) to support district eligible Erate services thus creating a unique 3 to 4 bang for the dollar that assist districts’ purchase of other instructional technologies.

Internet Safety and Security Measures (SB230)
Internet content and security measures for every school

KETS Phase 1 Completion
Provided a basic set of administrative and instructional education technology tools for every K-12 classroom, school and district office

2001-2006 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology
The 2001 Master Plan kicked off Phase 2 of the KETS, building on the basic EdTech toolset and focusing on the ongoing costs of maintaining and incremental replacement, the people costs needed, and the concept and value of shared services

First Statewide STLP Championship at Rupp Arena
Started as statewide celebration and competition of student technology use - By 2017, attendance has grown to 14,000.

KATC Becomes KySTE
Kentucky Association of Technology Coordinators became KySTE (Kentucky Society for Technology in Education) and hire first executive director

2007-2012 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology
The 2007 Master Plan described how technology would be used to improve teaching and learning for all of Kentucky’s children, building upon past successes and defining a path which enable all students to understand and leverage technology opportunities to realize their full potential while extending instruction beyond traditional school walls.

First Stilwell Award
KDE instituted the Stilwell Award for those outstanding partners who helped KDE fulfill their mission to the students and citizens of the state. William E. Stilwell, namesake of the KDE Technology Award, was named first recipient.

Birth of Kentucky Education Technology Systems (KETS)
A direct result of the 1990 Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA), KETS ensured basic and equitable anytime, anywhere, always-on access to instructional and administrative education technology services for all students, teachers and administrators.

1st Master Plan for Education Technology
The first Master Plan addressed instructional challenges of the 90’s and beyond, as educators prepared Kentucky schools for the great changes to come as the world entered into the digital age.

First Microsoft Mail Implementation
First in the nation to have email capabilities for all students, teachers and administrators

Launch of District Administrative System
First in the nation to provide a local area network, Internet, and office productivity software to every district. Shelby County schools were the first pilot site in 1994-1995.

Every School District Connected to the Internet
First in the nation to connect all school districts to the internet via high-speed network connections provided by the first Kentucky Information Highway Contract (KIH 1)

MUNIS a Common Financial System for Every District
First in the nation to provide those applications deemed most critical: Accounts Payable, Personnel, Payroll, Budget, General Ledger and Purchasing

Statewide Student Information System
First in the nation to implement a common statewide student information system

Statewide KETS Service Desk
First in the nation to provide dedicated education technical assistance to all school districts

Kentucky Virtual High School Launch
Every Kentucky high school seeking access to high school level coursework provided opportunity to enroll in for-credit, enrichment or college preparatory classes taught by Kentucky certified teachers and receive credit from their local high school courses delivered online to schools, homes and other places with Internet access available anywhere and anytime--meeting the needs of students

Statewide Identity Management Service
First in the nation to provide enterprise directory services to all schools and districts allowing secure access to the internet and web-based instructional material

Statewide Software Update System
Provided a uniform and timely method to download and distribute Microsoft software and security updates for all K-12 Windows workstations and servers

Statewide AntiVirals System
Provided antivirus licensing and management services for every district and school including all K-12 Windows and Apple computers and servers

Instructional Device Upgrade (IDJ)
Legislators appropriated $50m to replace aging student and teacher workstations

Kentucky Information Highway (Version 2)
Provided increased high-speed data and Internet capacity for every school and school district office

First KY EdTech Leaders Webcast
Scott County Schools held KETS leadership for the first district EdTech leaders webcast. This is a monthly event that has continued for the past 11 years.