

Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines

About the KY DLG

The Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines (KYDLG) provide support to districts, schools, and content providers in the design and implementation of digital learning strategies and models. Digital learning is an instructional practice that leverages technologies designed to:

- Increase opportunity and access to learning resources
- Increase personalization and customization of learning
- Increase student readiness to effectively participate in a content-rich and increasingly connected digital culture

Implementation may take on several forms, which include blended learning strategies utilizing digital curricula and resources for in-person students, hybrid learning models, and supplemental or full-time enrolled online/virtual course loads. To that end, great digital learning is great learning.

The five (5) guiding principles of the KYDLG help district and school leaders to align goals, resources, and desired outcomes for any digital learning implementation. These guidelines are included in the Superintendent Assurances completed annually by all Kentucky public school district superintendents.

The KYDLG are designed through collaborative efforts of the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Education Technology and school district education technology leaders and are revised every four years.

Five Digital Learning Guiding Principles



Are Digital Resources High-Quality?

The district routinely engages in reviews of digital curriculum and supplemental digital resources to ensure equitable access to high-quality instructional content utilized by students. Reviews determine alignment to appropriate [Kentucky Academic Standards \(KAS\)](#) and other applicable state/national benchmarks. A content-specific Kentucky certified teacher endorses the selection of high-quality curriculum and/or resource.



Are Digital Learners Supported & Progressing?

Content-specific Kentucky certified teachers, content experts, learning facilitator, and course stewards promote learning progress and outcomes through integrated systems designed to provide learning experiences and relationships necessary for learner success.



Is Learning Personal?

Digital learning experiences provide learners personalization in support of content mastery and desired outcomes. To enable personalized learning, staff incorporate progress data as well as the unique needs and interests of all learners to develop equitable and customizable learning experiences at scale.



Is Pedagogy Effective?

Effective digital learning pedagogy applies the measures of evidence-based teaching quality in the [Kentucky Framework for Teaching](#) to applicable state and national academic standards, relevant programmatic guidelines, and benchmarks.



Are Leaders Committed?

Leaders collaborate with all stakeholders to create evidence-based sustainable systems and processes that are coherent and consistent. Committed leaders provide and own accountability in support of successful student outcomes.

Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines



Are Digital Resources High-Quality?

The district routinely engages in reviews of digital curriculum and supplemental digital resources to ensure equitable access to high-quality instructional content utilized by students. Reviews determine alignment to appropriate [Kentucky Academic Standards \(KAS\)](#) and other applicable state/national benchmarks. A content-specific Kentucky certified teacher endorses the selection of high-quality curriculum and/or resource.

Continuous Improvement

The district includes a systematic review of digital curriculum and resources as part of the continuous improvement process. The review process should provide the opportunity to determine if the curriculum is aligned in scope and sequence to the Kentucky approved academic standards, research-based or externally validated, provides relevant, comprehensive texts and assessments, and accessible for all students. When appropriate, these resources and courses align with Kentucky course descriptions and bear course code assignments established by [704 KAR 3:540](#).

Digital Readiness

Digital tools associated with curriculum and resources are evaluated for alignment to teaching and learning goals as well as the cybersecurity, safety, and privacy needs of staff and learners.

Professional Learning

Successful implementation of the digital curriculum and resources necessitates a systemic professional learning effort for teachers, students, and families. When designing or selecting opportunities at the local level, districts should align them to [KDE's 8 characteristics of high-quality professional learning](#) to ensure alignment of digital resources and teacher learning experiences that improve student outcomes.

Spotlight: Computer Science

Modernizing Computer Science (CS) pathways relies on high-quality instructional resources to align with Kentucky's Academic Standards for CS. This includes aligning tools with teaching goals, rebranding IT pathways as CS, extending CS courses to middle grades, and ongoing systematic review of digital curriculum. To support teachers in implementing these modernized pathways, professional learning opportunities are essential. [KDE's CS Plan](#) goals Think CS, Learn CS, and Do CS further emphasize the importance of high-quality resources and teacher training to provide meaningful CS learning experiences where students apply their knowledge effectively.

Additional Resources

[KDE High-Quality Instructional Resources](#)

[Model Curriculum Framework](#)

[Quality Matters K-12 Digital Curriculum Publisher Rubric](#)

[ISTE EdTech Selection and Evaluation Resources](#)



Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines

Are Digital Learners Supported & Progressing?



Content-specific Kentucky certified teachers, content experts, and learning facilitators, and course stewards promote learning progress and outcomes through integrated systems designed to provide learning experiences and relationships necessary for learner success.

Continuous Improvement

Schools and districts effectively gather and utilize academic, accountability, and environmental data to create systems in support of learning outcomes in addition to the learners social and behavioral needs. Data provided through use of digital content, screeners, and assessments/diagnostics is utilized as an integral part of determining the impact of adoption through evidence-based teaching and learning strategies. Systems also include broader relevant measures to promote understanding of the full context and impact of teaching and learning models designed to support varied student outcomes.

Digital Readiness

Data-fluent district and school leaders facilitate the responsible use of student, school, and community data through the use of digital tools and workflows. Learners know how to access synchronous and asynchronous resources that align to their academic, social, and behavioral goals.

Professional Learning

Teachers and staff are provided learning experiences that build their data-fluency skill set to foster learner support and progress. Learners, staff, and families alike are onboarded to the digital tools utilized for teaching, learning, and communication.

Spotlight: Library Media

School media librarians support digital learning by curating high-quality digital materials aligned to student needs and providing specialized training on information literacy and digital citizenship. They curate accessible collections and resources to help students become proficient users of digital tools and media. Teacher librarians also support the development of critical evaluation skills that empower students to be safe, secure, and responsible users of information. As technology mentors within and beyond the school walls, librarians offer just-in-time support for teachers implementing digital resources, strengthening your school's digital learning environment.

Additional Resources

[Beyond Proficiency: Effective School Library Media Programs](#)

[Kentucky Academic Standards for Library Media](#)

[School Library Media Standards and Technology Standards Crosswalk](#)

[Kentucky's Multi-Tiered System of Supports \(KyMTSS\)](#)



Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines

Is Learning Personal?



Digital learning experiences provide learners personalization in support of content mastery and desired outcomes. To enable personalized learning, staff incorporate progress data as well as the unique needs and interests of all learners to develop equitable and customizable learning experiences at scale.

Continuous Improvement

Personalized learning experience design systematically incorporates data and information necessary for learners to connect academic content with skills and aspirations for when they leave school.

Digital Readiness

Independent learning skills such as self-regulation, goal setting, and strategies for seeking help are enabled by skills developed through integration of the [Kentucky Academic Standards for Technology](#) and Digital Citizenship best practices.

Professional Learning

Staff and students are afforded opportunities to learn and implement digital citizenship skills. The KAS for Technology are intentionally connected to learning experiences K-12 through participation in learning communities (e.g., PLC, communities of practice) and/or coaching experiences provided by school or district-level digital learning coaches.

Spotlight: STLP

[STLP](#) (Student Technology Leadership Program) promotes personalized learning experiences by allowing students to explore their interests, develop real-world skills, and engage in hands-on, student-driven projects. Through a student-centered, project-based approach, learners take ownership of their education by choosing projects that align with their passions, whether in coding, digital art, robotics, or media production. STLP is designed to foster creativity, critical thinking, and leadership by providing mentorship, collaboration, and opportunities to showcase work at various levels. By integrating technology and real-world problem-solving, STLP empowers students to personalize their learning journey, develop essential skills, and gain recognition for their achievements.

Additional Resources

[STLP Website](#)

[KDE Portrait of a Learner](#)

[9 Elements of Digital Citizenship](#)



Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines



Is Pedagogy Effective?

Effective digital learning pedagogy applies the measures of evidence-based teaching quality in the [Kentucky Framework for Teaching](#) to applicable state and national academic standards, relevant programmatic guidelines, and benchmarks.

Continuous Improvement

Instructional strategies for staff are developed through coaching and evaluation aligned to the district educator development systems. Digital curricula, resources, and course offerings enable teaching and learning strategies that provide meaningful choice in where, how, and when learners engage with experiences, incorporates interests and goals, and allows for the monitoring of student progress.

Digital Readiness

Teachers curate digital resources aligned to professional and learner needs. Teachers facilitate learning experiences that model and build digital citizenship skills for learners.

Professional Learning

High-quality professional learning experiences utilize coaching models to enable teachers' development and implementation of evidence-based digital instructional strategies.

Spotlight: Digital Learning Coaches

Effective pedagogy requires continuous learning and collaboration among leaders and teachers. Digital Learning Coaches (DLCs) help teachers align lessons with High-Quality Instructional Resources (HQIRs) and integrate technology for personalized instruction. Data-driven tools support progress monitoring and targeted interventions. DLCs also promote evidence-based practices, professional growth, and digital citizenship to ensure equitable, high-quality education for all students.

Additional Resources

[Why Coaching?](#)

[DLC Connection to the KETS Master Plan](#)

[KDE Educator Growth and Evaluation Resources](#)

[National Standards for Quality Online Teaching Crosswalk to the Danielson Framework](#)

Kentucky Digital Learning Guidelines



Are Leaders Committed?

Leaders collaborate with all stakeholders to create evidence-based sustainable systems and processes that are coherent and consistent. Committed leaders provide and own accountability in support of successful student outcomes.

Continuous Improvement

Leaders ensure the staffing, financial, and academic resources are available to effectively meet the criteria for student success through systematic evaluation utilizing relevant data and feedback. Strategic planning processes exist in order to reflect upon and improve program effectiveness. Policies are evaluated in collaboration with stakeholders to provide transparency, accountability, and sustainability.

Digital Readiness

Districts and schools providing blended learning and/or fully online opportunities for students should determine the digital device, internet access, people-side support, interoperability, digital learning and efficiency tool (e.g., Learning Management System, Synchronous Meeting tools) needs as well as additional infrastructure required for sustained implementation.

Professional Learning

Leaders develop a comprehensive vision for professional learning and design opportunities that enable personalization, utilize technology to expand learning environments and networks, and build digital skill sets needed for facilitating learning experiences for students. Feedback systems inform needs and progress toward goals to provide sustainability.

Spotlight: Online/Virtual and Remote Learning Program Support

Committed and collaborative leadership ensures district-sponsored online/virtual programs across Kentucky the vision and resources to offer personalized online learning opportunities for students. Whether it's supplemental online courses, hybrid models, or full-time enrolled course loads, these models help districts meet the increasing demand for flexibility in how, when, and where students learn.

Additional Resources

KETS Master Plan | [Collaborative Leadership](#)

Future Ready Framework | [Collaborative Leadership](#)

National Standards for Quality Online Learning | [NSO for Programs](#)