

The KETS Timeline (from 1992-2020)

1992

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.

1993

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.

1994

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)

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

1995

First Microsoft Mail Implementation

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

Rollout 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)

1997

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

1998

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 telecommunication lines, Internet access and networking components since 1998 and remains among the top states in the nation in E-rate funds received. State level E-rate reimbursements funnel to districts as KETS offers assistance (where they are matched 1 :1) to support district eligible E-rate 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 safety measures for every school

2000

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 Kentuckian seeking 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 anytime and anywhere--meeting the needs of students

2001

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.

2004

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 Antivirus System

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

2005

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.

2006

Instructional Device Upgrade (IDU)

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 hosted KETS leadership for the first district EdTech leaders webcast. This is a monthly event that has continued for the past 11 years.

2007

KATC Becomes KySTE

Kentucky Association of Technology Coordinators became KySTE (Kentucky Society for Technology in Education) and hires 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.

2008

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.

2010

Cloud Email

First and largest statewide implementation of cloud based K-12 email for every student, teacher and administrator

KySTE Conference

KySTE moved its summer conference to the spring in the old Kentucky Teaching and Learning Conference (KTLC) timeslot (previously Kentucky Education Technology Conference/KETC).

2011

KDE Open House

Launched as a "one-stop shop" for education data allowing schools, districts, parents, researchers and others access to key data on schools and districts

Kentucky Student Information Mobile App

In partnership with Infinite Campus, launched the first student information system mobile app providing parents and students real time access to assignments, grades, attendance and more - The iOS app was introduced in 2011 and an Android version was available by 2012.

Digital Driver's License for Digital Citizenship Launched

KETS created a partnership with the University of Kentucky's Digital Learning Design Lab to launch an app focused on helping students and teachers learn the nine elements of digital citizenship.

First State Board Meeting Webcast

Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) began to webcast meetings with the first webcast conducted from the State Board Room at the Capital Plaza Tower in Frankfort.

2012

First Online Statewide School Report Card

Kentucky first introduced an online school report card in 2012 that was recognized nationally by the Education Commission of the States as one of eight states with report cards that were accessible, informative and easily understood.

[First All State Superintendent Webcast](#)

Commissioner held first All State Superintendent webcast from the State Board Room at the Capital Plaza Tower in Frankfort

[Paperless State Board Meetings](#)

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) became totally digital for state board meetings.

[KDE Notify App](#)

KDE and Northern Kentucky University launched KDE's first mobile app for iPhone, Android and Windows devices focused on the status of education technology services.

[Kentucky Virtual High School Grows](#)

KDE shifts virtual high school experience from a state-ran model to a distributed partnership model (naming JCPS eSchool, BAVEL, and KET the original partners).

2013

[2013-2018 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology](#)

The 2013 Master Plan closely aligned with the P-12 education strategic plan of the state and districts, and was further informed by relative studies, research, audit and survey results, and customer feedback. For the first time, the Master Plan was delivered in an online digital format.

[MUNIS Transition to the Cloud](#)

First and largest in the nation to provision cloud based financial service for K-12 and any type of government organization

[BrightBytes Partnership](#)

BrightBytes helped KDE and school districts better understand, through EdTech data, more about the usage and impact of digital tools and resources for students, teachers and parents.

[KDE News Mobile App](#)

KDE and Northern Kentucky University launched the KDE News mobile app for iPhone, Android and Windows devices.

2014

[Data Quality Study](#)

Partnered with Gartner to define best practices for collection and stewardship of education data

[Non-Traditional Instructional Time Legislation](#)

All 173 public school districts became eligible to apply to conduct "non-traditional" student attendance days due to weather or other emergencies formerly known as the "Snow Bound Pilot." Approval provided the opportunity to conduct school through virtual or other non-traditional means on days that the district would have normally had to cancel school.

[Wireless Access on School Buses](#)

Schools implemented wireless Internet access on school buses to give students access to education technology tools while commuting to and from school.

[eTranscripts](#)

First state to use a common transcript and electronic process for college admissions statewide - All public high schools, and both public and private postsecondary schools participate.

[Recognized as a Top 3 State in Data Quality](#)

KDE was recognized nationally by the Data Quality Campaign for best practices in data collection and use of educational data to improve student achievement.

[Single Sign On \(SSO\)](#)

First in the country to provide the ability for every student and teacher to access Chromebooks and Google resources via their Office 365 credentials.

2015

[KETS Infographic](#)

An accumulation of education technology data that visually presents important data trends

[Internet Safety and Content Management](#)

Established statewide product standard for Internet content management service.

[Kentucky Information Highway \(Version 3\)](#)

First in the nation to connect every school with high speed fiber and meet the national standard of 100kbps for every student

[Created a National Model with KY's First IT Academy](#)

Now called Microsoft Imagine Academy, KETS established a new strategy for championing industry recognized IT student certifications.

2016

[Creation of OET's Digital Learning Coach Leadership Team](#)

Designed to support districts through leadership & professional learning as well as resource identification and best practices for implementation of digital learning strategies.

[Government Technology Magazine's "Doers, Dreamers and Drivers" Award](#)

KDE named one of Government Technology's Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers for 2016, for finding innovative ways to cut through public sector barriers to improve and maximize services to the state.

[STLP on KET's "Education Matters"](#)

Filmed live at STLP state championship at Rupp Arena, the video highlighted the impact of KETS and instructional technology across Kentucky.

2017

[The People Side of Education Technology](#)

First in the nation study and tool that addressed the people side of K-12 education technology

[Infinite Campus Migration to the Cloud](#)

Partnered with Infinite Campus to add security, improve efficiency and reduce statewide costs by leveraging a private cloud environment for the Kentucky Student Information System

[School Cloud Firewall](#)

First in the nation to implement a complete cloud based firewall security service for every school district

[William T. Nallia Award](#)

KDE received the William T. Nallia award from the Kentucky Association of School Administrators that reflects a spirit of innovation and cutting-edge leadership while bringing higher levels of success to all children.

[Successful Pilot of Future KY K-12 voice/telephone communications via the cloud by KDE the agency, KSB and KSD.](#)

[EdScoop's EdTech Heroes Award](#)

KDE received the EdTech Heroes Award as one of the top 25 states making a difference in "EdTech Heroes: 25 State Leaders Making a Difference," a project that highlights states that demonstrate innovative practices and leadership in harnessing technology to support education.

2018

[Largest Statewide MUNIS Disaster Recovery Test](#)

Successful completion of first statewide disaster recovery test of cloud-based KY K-12 financial services (MUNIS) used by all school districts.

[KY K-12 Online Testing – High School End of Course](#)

Highly successful first, large-scale “field test” of online testing in KY K-12. A total of 131,442 test sessions were administered to 97,747 students representing 169 school districts. This included end of course assessments for grades 9 through 12 in biology, Algebra II and English II.

[KDE’s KY K-12 EdTech presentation to US Congress committee in Washington DC; KY K-12 is the pioneer and overall national leader in most aspects of K-12 education technology](#)
KDE was chosen by Chief Counsel of State School Officers (CCSSO) to present KY K-12 EdTech successes over the past 25 years and to represent the other 49 states on recommended approaches to K-12 cybersecurity.

Statewide KETS Service Desk Reaches Milestone of Service

Reached major milestone of 250,000 service requests by our in-house, dedicated education technical assistance team to all school districts.

2018 – 2024 KETS Master Plan for Education Technology

This next phase of the Master Plan builds upon the successes of the previous plans back to 1992 and includes items KY K-12 continues to do well, areas to improve upon and new items to be integrated. The studies, research, standards, governance and technology needs for the state and districts that play a critical role in executing the Master Plan are also identified.

KY K-12 Email Upgrade/Transition to Microsoft/Google Email

Based upon feedback from KY K-12 district EdTech leaders, students and teachers, added Gmail as a KY K-12 product standard to our existing KY K-12 e-mail standard of Microsoft Office 365 e-mail for a better experience using Microsoft's Education tools and Google's G-Suite. Two-thirds of districts chose to upgrade to the current version/design of Microsoft Office 365 and one-third of the districts chose to transition to Google's Gmail.

PBS Learning Media Launch

Created a new partnership between KET and PBS bringing more than 100k standards-aligned video resources free to Kentucky school districts.

Data Visualization Tools

Enhanced the overall value and intuitiveness of the Student Information System (Infinite Campus) through use of interactive data visualizations created in Tableau to provide school and district administrators easier access to real-time actionable data.

2019

Federal E-rate Rebate Program Maximized

\$50M applied for by KY K-12 for federal E-rate eligible products and service, which could lead up to \$120M in KY K-12 edtech buying power.

KY K-12 Online Testing – High School K-PREP

Large scale online summative K-PREP testing success of 180,000 tests for 90,000 of KY high school students that goes beyond the 2018 EOC test.

School Safety (SB1) Anonymous Reporting Tools for Schools

Voice and digital anonymous reporting tools mandated in 2019 school safety legislation (SB1) are in place.

Kentucky Educator Certification and Ethics System RFI

Request for Information (RFI) is in place to begin transition for the aging, unsupportable systems with a single, modern, cloud-based solution.

[Updated KY K-12 Internet Services Capabilities for all 173 KY K-12 Districts](#)

Using a different approach, upgrade/replace the aged electronics in each of the 173 KY K-12 Internet hub sites in school districts, which help all KY K-12 schools better connect to the existing KDE provided fibered on-ramp service to the Internet (aka, KIH3).

[2019 Making IT Happen Award](#)

KETS leaders recognized for multiple years with the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) award honoring outstanding educators and leaders who demonstrate extraordinary commitment, leadership, courage and persistence in improving digital learning opportunities for students - (2009, 2011-2013, 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019)

[New KY K-12 School Report Card \(SRC\) Suite](#)

Introduced a new SRC having four components, with the primary focus of providing data that KY K-12 students and parents are most interested in seeing/knowing. The SRC is conveniently accessible through a mobile app and provides data that is easily understood by the average person. The card includes a near real-time portal for students and parents to securely access their current daily info (e.g., grades, academic assignments, class schedule, and attendance) and publicly accessible annual snapshots of school and district-level data.

[First Academic Standards for Computer Science](#)

Adoption by KY Board of Education and approved by legislature. Marks the first time academic standards for computer science have been developed and redefines Computer Science education in Kentucky.

[Technology Competencies as Minimum Graduation Requirement](#)

Beginning for students entering high school in the fall of 2020, graduation requirements include the ability to demonstrate performance-based technology competencies.

[Computer Science & IT Academy Launch](#)

Creation of a joint venture with OET and CTE to support rigorous computer science professional learning for teachers as well as teacher and student course support in the demonstration of computer science standards and industry certification exam vouchers in ALL computer science courses and pathways.

[Statewide Creation and Expansion of Digital Learning Coach Network](#)

With further commitment to the OET/ KETS' People Side of K-12 EdTech study, districts across the state began identifying Digital Learning Coaches (DLC) to provide support to administrators, teachers, students and parents and KDE launched the first ever statewide DLC support network. Their focus is to assist teachers in maximizing the effective use of technology for learning, differentiating instruction, and providing rigorous, relevant and engaging learning experiences for all students. Digital Learning Coaches provide a vital, real-time professional learning role for district-by-district customized digital learning experiences design, digital workflows, digital relationships, digital collaboration and student-design digital products (all of which are tied to remote and distance learning). Due to the strength and quickly proven value of this network prior to a global pandemic, district leaders are swiftly tapping more learning leaders to join the KY K-12 DLC Network.

Library Media Statewide Leadership Selected

Kentucky becomes one of only a handful of states to establish a dedicated Library Media leadership role. This new role will continue to push Kentucky K-12 public schools to nation leading boundaries and set new expectations for the role of library media leadership, instructional technologies, literacy, and learning.

Record Setting STLP Growth

The 2019 STLP journey began with 1800 STLP school team projects and close to 60,000 KY K-12 STLP students competing in November and December. Student participation in regional events grew beyond capacity and at such a high rate, a 9th STLP regional event was added to accommodate the increased participation in the nation's best and largest Student Technology Leadership Program.

2020

Kentucky Conducts the Largest and Most Successful K-12 Online Assessment in Kentucky History

KY once again broke new ground completing by far the most successful and largest "Field Test" to date of the KY K-12 online summative testing initiative and distinguishing KY from the nearby states that had failed. The numbers speak for themselves with 771,767 tests completed by 390,373 students across 3rd-8th and 10th-11th grades, and 172 KY school districts with near zero issues. No other state has come close to experiencing this level of success with deploying online testing for their K-12 students.

All KY K-12 Schools Quickly Pivot to NTI

In response to a global pandemic and due to KY's nation leading digital readiness, 100% of Kentucky public schools quickly pivoted to implement plans for continuation of learning through the statewide Non-Traditional Instructional (NTI) time program with heavy digital connectedness and technology enabled services, tied to digital, remote and distance learning. Digital learning and collaboration saw new heights in KY K-12, due to our nation leading digital readiness. Had we not been putting the right things in place for the past 25 years, there would have been no way that we could have pivoted to nearly 100% digital experience options in all 172 school districts overnight. KY K-12 is "the" pioneer and "the" national leader in most aspects of education technology. Therefore, KY K-12 is in a much better position and prepared for online, digital, distance, virtual and remote teaching and learning due to more cloud based services than the other 49 states. Because of NTI, KY was able to not only keep going but finish the school year versus shutting down way early like other states.

First Totally Virtual KBE Meeting

The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE), in an effort to practice social distancing, held its first ever virtual meeting using Microsoft Teams where every KDE staff member, KBE member and other presenters were physically at different locations. It was also streamed live and accessible to the public on the Kentucky Department of Education's YouTube channel to meet all requirements of KY's open meetings law. Kentucky's successful implementation is either the first or one of the nation's first 100% virtual board meetings complying with all provisions of open meetings law. Our model quickly set an example that KY school districts, other KY state agencies and other states (e.g., Colorado) across the nation recognized and requested our assistance in replicating for their virtual board meeting needs.

[KDE First in KY State Government and One of the First In the Nation to Quickly Pivot to a 100% Telework/Telecommuting Service](#)

KDE staff and all 172 school districts made the fast mass quality transition to telecommuting, virtual meetings, distance digital learning, and virtual cloud operations services. However, had we not been putting the right things in place for the past 25 years, there would have been no way that we could have pivoted to nearly 100% virtual across an entire Department of Education and for all 172 school districts overnight. KY K-12 is “the” pioneer and “the” national leader in most aspects of education technology so KY K-12 is in a much better position and prepared in telecommuting, virtual operations, virtual resources, virtual meetings and cloud based services than the other 49 states since we’ve been doing all of these for over a decade. All 172 of our KY K-12 school districts are already connected by high speed, high quality, reliable fibered Internet service and all schools already have dense Wi-Fi within each school building. KY was the first state to have all of this in place for every school district throughout a state. All of this uniquely positioned KDE staff and our KY K-12 school districts to quickly transition and continue to provide services and instruction in light of the COVID-19 pandemic all while simultaneously further fortifying our already rock solid security posture.

[KY K-12 School Report Card \(SRC\) is Recognized One of the Nation’s Best](#)

Kentucky’s School Report Card provides students, parents, schools, districts and communities access to the data needed to evaluate performance, plan for the future and celebrate successes. Data Quality Campaign recognized Kentucky’s SRC as one of the best in the nation.

[STLP State Championship Quickly Pivots to 100% Virtual Competition Instead of Cancelling](#)

In response to the global pandemic, STLP quickly pivoted to host a 100% virtual state championship experience. Student participation was higher than expected and demonstrations were judged by virtual panels and countless volunteers. The live broadcast awards show had thousands of viewers with a record social reach. The journey to KY K-12 STLP State Championship began with 1800 STLP school team projects and close to 60,000 KY K-12 STLP students competing in November and December at our 9 regional competitions throughout Kentucky.

[Next Generation Internet Bandwidth Upgrade for KY K-12 Schools](#)

KDE staff and AT&T moved KY K-12 schools to a 200 Gbps Internet platform in May. This upgrade provides K-12 students and staff in Kentucky access to a very safe and reliable Internet experience to support direct or distance teaching and learning. The amount of computers in KY K-12 and KDE is 8 times larger than the rest of KY state government and all local county governments combined and thus it should be no surprise given KY is “the” national leader in cloud based computing that we use 20 times more Internet bandwidth than the rest of KY state government and local county governments combined. We know of no other educational entity, worldwide, that has this amount of quality, safe Internet resource to support teaching and learning.

[Kentucky K-12 Further Commits to Computer Science Growth](#)

Kentucky continues to lead surrounding states and the nation in its dedication to expanding access to Computer Science (CS) for all students. Kentucky supports more *Girls Who Code (GWC)* clubs and co-curricular groups than any other GWC partner. Kentucky is also one of 18 states with seven or more of the *Nine Policies to Make Computer Science Foundational* for all students. Not even California, who boasts industries of innovation in technology, has met as many statewide CS policies as Kentucky. KDE

has added a statewide dedicated K-12 CS Lead to organize professional learning programs for teachers, meet the requirements of the newly signed Senate Bill 193 to report on CS implementation efforts annually, and ensure that Kentucky's graduates compete in the 21st Century workforce. This dedication to CS will not merely guarantee that Kentucky graduates compete in the job market but will also empower them to rout their competitors.

[First Statewide Staff Password Requirements](#)

First in the nation to implement a uniform strong password baseline for 100% of K12 staff user accounts.

[Online Registration Available for all KY Schools](#)

Utilized CARES Act funds to make online registration (OLR) available statewide to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic and ease back-to-school challenges. OLR allows parents and guardians to enroll their child from home, allows staff to process enrollments from home, and eliminates many of the paper forms passed between parents and staff. Infinite Campus worked in partnership with KDE to roll out OLR Prime in an expedited 30-day approach for the 2020-2021 school year.

[Kentucky Expands KY K12 Internet Safety to the Home](#)

In response to the COVID-19 global pandemic and due to KY's nation leading digital readiness, Kentucky became the first and only state to leverage Internet Safety technologies on behalf of all schools and districts by expanding the K12 partnership with Lightspeed Systems to ensure that 100% of all students, teachers, and staff have safe and protected access to internet resources while at school or at home. This statewide implementation helps districts manage distance learning programs more efficiently while effectively meeting both state and federal requirements as a technology protection measure.

[Academic Standards Finally Become Machine Readable and Interactive with Interoperability](#)

Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) are now available for import into Infinite Campus and other digital platforms. KDE partnered with IMS Global and Infinite Campus to import *KAS to all districts in July 2020*. This interactive digital companion can provide direct support and vital linkage for teachers utilizing features such as progress monitoring, standards-based assignments (grading), and lesson planning in IC.