

# KETS Budget Request Briefing

Kentucky Department of Education | Office of Education Technology



## All About KETS

The Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) is the pioneer and nation leader in most aspects of education technology in the United States. KETS' primary purpose is to provide EdTech services to all 171 school districts, Kentucky School for the Deaf, Kentucky School for the Blind, 51 Area Technology Centers, and the Kentucky Department of Education. Some primary functions of KETS are to provide high speed, consistently reliable and safe, internet connectivity to every public school in the state, as well as cybersecurity protections (e.g. cyberattack mitigation) and support for computer sciences.

### Our Chief Concern

When established in 1992, the KETS Baseline funding level was \$19.5M. Since then, statewide reliance on KETS vital EdTech services has only increased exponentially; **yet**, funding has eroded and been cut by 21% to the current level of only \$15.4M annually.

### The Celebrated KETS Financial Track Record and Shared Services Approach

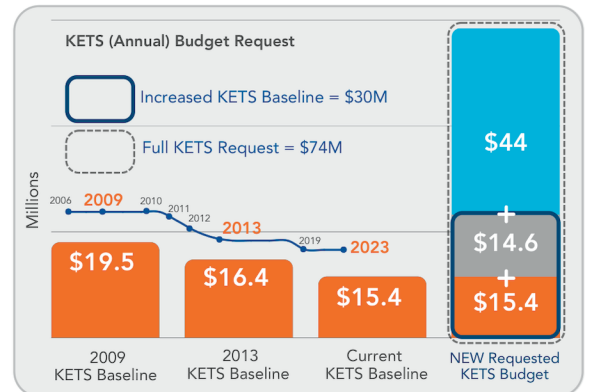
KY K-12 EdTech prices are significantly reduced by leveraging the buying power of all of KY K-12 to acquire EdTech products and service. An independent and well respected technology consultant company (i.e., Gartner) has reported that KY K-12 has saved 100s of millions over the years with this approach and districts would have had to pay 50-60% more if purchasing was done individually by each district for the very same product and service (e.g., KY K-12 Internet service for data, voice and video, financial management system (Munis) school information system (Infinite Campus), etc.). KY K-12 gets up to 4-1 bang to the buck. KY K-12 is always a top 5 state in the nation in maximizing the federal e-rate funding program per student. That along with our state level EdTech financial matching program gives us an EdTech financial edge on the other 49 states. We do this much better than any other K-12 DOE in the nation. \$30M in annual KETS funding helps us to continue to do that.

At the end of each calendar year, EdTech leaders from all 171 districts provide articulated feedback to help set priorities for the coming year. Every year, these leaders emphatically indicate how greatly they value our shared EdTech services approach.

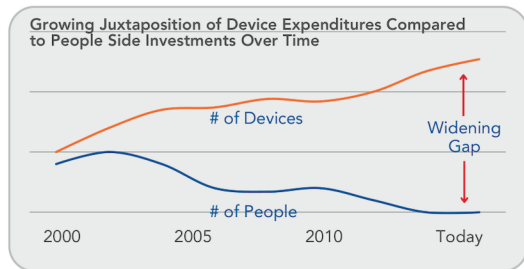
## What Is Being Requested?

Because every K-12 student, teacher and staff member in every district and school in Kentucky relies on KETS EdTech services for daily mission critical instructional and operational tasks, funding must be increased to support current requirements and need. We are requesting to:

- Bolster the diminished current KETS Baseline of \$15.4M with an increase of \$14.6M to reach a new KETS Baseline of \$30M in order to sustain current levels of service as well as help address legislative funding shortfalls (ex. statewide information system has not received funding since 2006 initial legislatively supported implementation; creating a \$1.5M budget gap annually).
- Add an additional \$44M annually to the new KETS Baseline to maintain support for vital EdTech initiatives including: increased cybersecurity protections, enhanced interoperability for safer online student/staff experiences, and utilizing the right people to implement EdTech with effectiveness.



## Why Is This Budget Request So Vital for Kentucky's Schools?



"Catch-22" - Based upon TAR (Technology Activity Report) data, this graph visualizes the growing gap between the number of devices deployed in Kentucky's schools as compared to the people side investments.

This widening gap may be best seen in the 2019-2022 annual TAR data, which shows a 108% growth in device expenditures against only an 11% growth in people expenditures over the same period.

### Computer Science, Learning Services, and Data Systems

Annual KETS funds helps ensure our KY K-12 computer science services for all KY K-12 students continue to prepare students for their future beyond K-12, including providing marketable skills and tech industry certifications. Major KY K-12 EdTech data systems and services (e.g. internet service to every school, Infinite Campus school information system, Munis financial management system, etc.) are relied upon for classroom learning, daily operations, and decision making at the parent, student, teacher, administrative, district, statewide, and legislative level.

### Cybersecurity and Cyberdefense

KETS provides crucial cybersecurity, cyber safety & cyber defense measures that help protect all of KY K-12 from nearly **76 billion** attempted cyberattacks each year and ensures that our EdTech internet services are **only** used for K-12 educational purposes.

### The People Side

Extended funding will help ensure uninterrupted access to these systems and critical services while also helping districts deploy the right people to ensure these EdTech investments remain operational and implemented with expected high-quality (maximizing the deployed technologies).

## What Happens If This Additional Budget Request Is Not Funded?

Sustaining current demand for the volume of KETS supported initiatives at the high standards students/schools/districts have come to depend upon will no longer be attainable without the required funding. Here are some examples of stopped or broken services:

**STOPPED:** Without additional sustaining funding, this service or tool will cease to be available or offered to students/schools/districts.

- eTranscripts availability discontinued
- Student Online Registration (for every school) ends
- Virus protection ends
- Digital Learning Coach stipends end
- Kentucky Virtual Library membership not provided
- Campus Learning and Analytics stops

**BROKEN/ WEAKENED:** Usability of these mission critical systems/resources will be greatly reduced, rendering many features/services inaccessible, unreliable, or even unavailable.

- Fewer computers for students to utilize for learning
- KETS Offers of Assistance are significantly reduced
- Necessity to downgrade internet speeds to slower levels
- Statewide Data Systems End (Infinite Campus / Munis)
- People Side of EdTech - understaffing/staff gaps worsen
- Weakened cyber safety (more susceptible to cyber attacks)
- Product Standardization is weakened

Scan here to download a copy of the 2024-2030 KETS Master Plan to access detailed information about Kentucky's K-12 EdTech system.