The History of Education Technology in Kentucky Schools

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)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

First Microsoft Mail Implementation

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

1995 — 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

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 Erate reimbursements 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 safety measures for every school

1998 — 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

2000 — 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.

KATC Becomes KySTE

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

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

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 KY EdTech Leaders Webcast

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

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

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

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).

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.

2011

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 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 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.

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.

2012

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.

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.

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

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).

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.

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

2013

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

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.

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

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.

2014

Internet Safety and Content Management
Established statewide product standard for Internet content management service.

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.

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

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.

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.

2015

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.

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

Make 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 – (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016)

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

2016

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.

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.

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.

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