

Kentucky's K-12 Digital Readiness

Kentucky Department of Education

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The teaching, learning, and administrative processes of Kentucky's 171 public school districts require a robust digital ecosystem now more than ever. To meet the teaching and learning demands of today and tomorrow, we believe this ecosystem should:

Empower personalized learning experiences for students and staff.

Enable digital communications and collaboration models among all stakeholders.

Expand data-enhanced decision-making.

Ensure an experience protected through cutting-edge privacy and security strategies.

Digital Excellence for Teaching and Learning

A great digital learning environment requires a commitment to provide anywhere, anytime, always-on opportunity and access for students and staff. Strategies such as high speed fiber connectivity to every district, dense Wi-Fi coverage throughout buildings able to support the simultaneous connectivity needs of students and staff, and device assignment for students are being adopted across Kentucky to address the needs both on and beyond the school campus.

School Connectivity and Wi-Fi

100% of Kentucky K-12 public schools and district offices are connected by the highest speed and quality fiber internet services in the country.

School fiber internet usage increased by 42% over the past 24 months (December 2023–December 2025) while maintaining an industry-leading **99.98%** uptime.

More than 1 megabit per second (Mbps) bandwidth per student is available statewide.

100% of schools provide Wi-Fi access to students.

99.8% of these schools have dense Wi-Fi networks capable of supporting all students and teachers connected at the same time.

Home Access

99.1% of students have internet access for schoolwork beyond the school campus.

96.6% of students report having internet access at home.

Student and Staff Device Access

Total Student Instructional Devices: 931,732

Student to Device Ratio: .68 to 1

Total Combined Student and Staff Devices: 1,085,529.

89% of districts assign a dedicated mobile device to all, or at least a portion of, their students.

81% of 6th-12th grade students say they use technology school in ways that help them learn.

76% of 6th-12th grade students say they use a device at school for learning the right amount of time, or would like to use it more often for this purpose.

73% of 6th-12th grade students say using education technology in the classroom allows them to access class materials when and where they need them.

86% of 3rd-5th grade students say one way they use their device at school is to take assessments (tests or quizzes).

Digitally Empowered Learners

Strong digital skills derived from the Kentucky Academic Standards for Technology, such as utilizing shared digital workspaces, have been correlated with increased collaboration in the classroom. Students can think about concepts and interactions in more varied ways with the affordances of multimedia and multimodal representations.

Digital Communicator

79% of 6th-12th grade students use data analysis or visualization tools at least a few times a year.

81% of 6th-12th grade students use email or other online tools to communicate with their teacher to support their learning.

Digital Designer

82% of 6th-12th grade students use technology to demonstrate knowledge by creating videos, slide presentations, art, music, podcasts, etc.

77% of 6th-12th grade students develop digital portfolios or interactive notebooks to showcase their learning.

9,217 unique students in grades 6-12 completing at least one Computer Science course offered by their school, ATC, or local CTE center.

66% of 3rd-5th grade students say they participate in coding or programming activities at school such as The Hour of Code or as part of their school's STLP.

Digital Collaborator

Developing a level of comfort with digital collaboration outside of school helps students be more successful when collaborating with classmates, teachers, and other experts.

81% of 6th-12th grade students collaborate with classmates using online tools (like Google Docs) to support a project or assignments. Additionally, 61% of 3rd -5th grade students say their computer or tablet helps them work on a project with other students. 73% of 6th-12th grade students find experts online to answer questions about new skills or interests.

Digital Citizen

Students recognize the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world; act and model in ways that are safe, legal and ethical.

93% of teachers feel comfortable teaching digital citizenship strategies and behaviors to students.

96% of districts report having a strategic plan for teaching digital citizenship skills.

70% of 3rd-12th grade students report they know how to protect their personal data and maintain privacy when online.

80% of 3rd-12th grade students report they know how to be safe when using online and digital tools.

Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)

STLP is the Kentucky statewide initiative empowering K–12 students to create, collaborate, and lead through technology-focused projects, challenges, and real-world learning experiences.

STLP Kentucky involves more than 60,000 student participants from 779 schools across 133 districts.

Percentage of schools in the district reporting an active STLP:

- 0-24% (51 Districts)
- 25-49% (25 Districts)
- 50-74% (29 Districts)
- 75-100% (69 Districts)

69% of programs are integrated into content, while 31% are after-school programs or clubs.

2025 State Champions:

- Russell High School (Russell Independent)
 - Fairdale High School (Jefferson County)
 - Kammerer Middle School (Jefferson County)
 - Summit Elementary School (Boyd County)
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Digitally Empowered Educators

Educators who are encouraged, recognized, and supported in the utilization of digital tools, more frequently create an environment of digital connectedness with students and families. This also aids in eliminating barriers to digital access and opportunity for students both on and beyond the school campus.

Digital Learning Designer

Educators design digital learning experiences and environments enabled by high-quality digital resources providing opportunities for student voice, choice, and path.

82% of teachers have students use a digital device (Chromebook, laptop, etc.) for learning at least weekly.

65% of teachers support differentiation by providing students with a variety of tools and options to use for learning.

73% of teachers use online quizzes or assessments at least a few times a month to inform student learning experience design. An additional 15% use them several times throughout the school year.

76% of teachers allow students to use media creation tools to create content in support of their learning.

Digital Communicator

Kentucky's Educators Use A Variety Of Ways To Stay Connected With Students And Their Families About Student Performance And Classroom/School Activities.

Families

66% District Mobile App (push notifications)

51% Text Message

49% Infinite Campus Parent Portal (IC Usage Reports - November '25)

Students

79% Websites (teacher, class, and/or school)

71% Learning Management System (e.g., Canvas, Google Classroom)

96% Infinite Campus Student Portal (IC Usage Reports - November '25)

78% of school administrators report using district or school social media accounts to communicate generalized information about school news and events.

Kentucky is cited as a top 3 state in teachers accessing and using quality data to raise achievement for all students. (Data Quality Campaign)

Digital Learning Collaborator

Educators are intentional to collaborate with peers, students, and experts outside the school to improve practice, discover and share resources and ideas, and solve problems.

75% of teachers report using social media, blog posts, etc. as new ideas for growing digital teaching practices.

78% of teachers collaborated with other teachers to design digital learning experiences for students.

83% of teachers in 75% of Kentucky districts have access to a **Digital Learning Coach (DLC)**.

94% of teachers feel comfortable managing students who are using digital tools.

80% of teachers feel the effective use of digital tools creates learning experiences that are interactive and participatory.

1,016 School Media Librarians are employed at the district or school level, 885 of which are not split or shared among schools. Of these, **92%** report intentional collaboration and support of digital strategies for teaching and learning.

Digitally Empowered School Leader

95% of school leadership feel the effective implementation of digital teaching and learning strategies is important to student success.

89% of school leadership feel they encourage teachers to try new things with technology.

82% of school leadership feel the administrative team models the effective use of digital tools in their own professional tasks.

Tech Trends

K-12 Online Assessment

In 2025, greater than 450,000 3rd - 12th grade students in 100% of Kentucky school districts successfully participated in high-stakes statewide testing, resulting in the highest recorded total of testing sessions* to date reaching nearly 1.8 million.

**Includes Fall and Spring ACT, CTE E-SESS and TRACK, WIDA ACCESS ELL, AP Bluebook, and KSA.*

Cybersecurity, Safety, and Privacy

312 large-scale, organized network attacks aimed at denying internet access to all Kentucky schools and districts were successfully mitigated.

More than 137 Billion unauthorized connection attempts against school networks are blocked annually by statewide security services.

Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) Offer of Assistance

The KETS offer of assistance to districts was \$25 per student annually in school years 16-17 and 17-18 but has remained consistent at \$21 per student annually beginning the 18-19 school year through the 25-26 school year.

School Digital Device Operating System (OS) Footprint

- **82%** Chrome OS
- **12%** Windows OS
- **5%** iOS
- **Less than 2%** Mac OS
- **Less than 1%** Android

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

140 (80%) districts report an intentional effort to encourage, engage, and empower the safe, secure, and responsible uses of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into school efficiency and learning space by teachers and students.

69% of school administrators report creating drafts, emails, or images using AI in their daily tasks.

28% of 6th-12th grade students say they use AI tools regularly to support schoolwork or homework assignments.

45% of 3rd-5th grade students say their teacher used AI in a lesson with the class.

78% of teachers feel comfortable or somewhat comfortable incorporating AI to develop lesson plans and create resources.

46% of 6th-12th grade students say they have experimented with AI tools on their own time.

Traditional vs. Mobile Devices

School Year	Traditional Devices	Mobile Devices
2021-2022	181,291	857,594
2022-2023	132,857	977,494
2023-2024	119,788	983,576
2024-2025	123,516	1,003,322
2025-2026	83,456	1,002,073

Online and Virtual Learning

88% of districts report offering online and virtual courses to students for credit. Of these, 76% offer a full-time enrollment option.

54 districts offer online and virtual courses to students in other districts.

Learning Management System

97% of districts sponsor a district-wide learning management system (LMS). The majority of adoption is with free cloud services.

100% of districts are using Google Workspace & Microsoft 365 - for Education.

Sources

Kentucky Digital Readiness Report
Kentucky School Report Card Suite
Project Tomorrow KY Speak Up
Digital Driver's License
KY Computer Science Report
KDE Open House