AI in Action Across KY

Kentucky Department of EDUCATION

Empowering educators and students through responsible, human-centered AI integration.

As an emerging technology, Kentucky's approach to Artificial Intelligence (AI) places empowerment, safety, and responsibility at the center of every implementation. By improving school efficiency and providing tools that encourage creativity and engage learners, AI becomes a support for, not a substitute for, professional expertise. Human insight stays in the loop to ensure AI enhances opportunity for all students.

Guidance

Kentucky provides statewide leadership through the KDE AI Guidance Brief, helping districts develop clear, transparent, and responsible local AI guidance.

- Regularly updated Kentucky AI Guidance Brief and KY K-12 web page resources
- Statewide reporting tracking intentional AI use (Digital Readiness + student Speak Up)
- AI strategy built on the KETS Master Plan foundation
- Updated District Acceptable/Responsible Use Policy through KSBA

Standards & Readiness

AI readiness is embedded in the KETS Master Plan and KY's Academic Standards, positioning AI as one tool among many that support future-ready digital leaning.

- Academic standards updated to infuse AI concepts using AI, making AI, and engaging w/ AI)
- New CTE local AI career pathway
- Employability standards to include ethical and general use of AI in the workplace
- AI competencies integrated into CTE pathways

Professional Learning

Kentucky supports educators with resources to grow skills that will help evaluate AI tools, recognize their limitations, and make informed choices on how to incorporate AI.

- AI course for all educators developed via multi-state collaborative (KyLearningHub - CCSSO partnership)
- CS & IT Academy "ACS" permissions (in partnership with Code.org & AdvancedKentucky)
- CTE "AI Fellows" program developing teacher leaders
- AI-based efficiency tools built into MS/Google

Stu. & Teacher Supports

Supports include opportunities to model appropriate student use. AI-enabled support provides actionable insights that improve attendance, engagement, and success.

- AI-assisted Early Warning report in Infinite Campus
- "Diego" AI Agent guiding GoTeachKY interactions for teacher retention and recruitment simplifying navigation for aspiring teachers
- STLP as a statewide model for responsible classroom AI integration/ AI challenges

AI Fluency & DigCit

Kentucky promotes AI fluency as part of developing safe, savvy, and socially responsible digital citizens. Students learn to question outputs and recognize where human clarity is required

- STLP guidance modeling safe, transparent, and age appropriate student use of AI
- KY Academic Standards reinforcing student understanding of AI's role, limitations, and appropriate application
- CS & IT Academy Student Industry Certifications

Emerging Innovations

AI is part of KY's commitment to expanding opportunity for every learner by supporting thoughtful experimentation & access to emerging technologies.

- AI driven network monitoring tools that strengthen cybersecurity readiness (GoGuardian)
- KDE agency AI Policy (based on COT policy) finalized and implemented
- AI-powered data visualizations helping leaders interpret trends and patterns
- Statewide student K-12 AI Challenge hosted to spotlight strong, responsible student uses of AI

Based on KDE AI Guidance Brief, KETS Master Plan, and other KDE initative resources.

December 2025

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Guidance

Kentucky provides statewide leadership through the KDE AI Guidance Brief, helping districts develop clear, transparent, and responsible local AI policies.

Updating the Kentucky AI Guidance Brief

- Ongoing refinements to Kentucky's AI Guidance Brief ensure that districts have current, practical direction on safe, secure, and responsible AI adoption.
- This keeps statewide policy aligned with rapidly changing technologies while reinforcing human-centered decision-making.

Continual Improvement of statewide guidance for safe, responsible AI use

- Inclusion of AI items in the Digital Readiness Report and the Speak Up Survey. Currently, 140 (80%) of Kentucky public school districts report that they have an intentional AI plan.
- Kentucky gathers district- and student-level data to understand how AI is being used, encouraged, and monitored across the state. These insights guide policy decisions and support targeted improvements.

Statewide data collection to monitor intentional, responsible AI use

- Kentucky's AI strategy is rooted in the existing KETS framework, ensuring that adoption is grounded in equity, security, interoperability, and sustainability. AI becomes part of a long-standing systems approach rather than a separate initiative.

Updated District Acceptable/Responsible Use Policy through KSBA to reflect responsible AI language

Standards & Readiness

AI readiness is embedded in the KETS Master Plan and Academic Standards, positioning AI as one tool among many that support future-ready digital leaning.

Updating Kentucky Academic Standards (Technology, Computer Science, Library Media)

- Kentucky is infusing AI concepts, ethics, and responsible use into statewide academic standards to prepare students for future learning and workplace environments.
- Academic standards updated to embed AI principles across disciplines.

Development of AI pathways within the CTE Division

Kentucky is creating structured course sequences that prepare students for AI-related careers, ensuring alignment with workforce needs and emerging technologies.

New CTE pathways focused on AI-related careers

- CTE Emerging Tech & Employability Standards to be implemented (AI ethics and general workplace use).
- AI literacy and ethics are now part of employability expectations, helping students understand how AI shapes modern work environments.

AI ethics and literacy embedded into employability standards

- CTE Pathway-Specific AI Embedded Content Standards
- Several CTE pathways now include AI competencies directly tied to industry expectations, ensuring that programs stay relevant to evolving technologies.
- AI competencies integrated into specialized CTE pathways.

Based on KDE AI Guidance Brief, KETS Master Plan, and other KDE initative resources.

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Professional Learning

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Multi-state collaboration to create a statewide AI course for educators

- Kentucky is partnering with other states to produce a free, open-access course that strengthens educators' understanding of AI and responsible implementation strategies.
- Hosted in the Kentucky Learning Hub.

CS & IT Academy "ACS" Permissions

- The ACS ("All Computer Sciences") is a year-long strategic credential, which includes professional learning in artificial intelligence (partnership with AdvancedKY and Code.org).
- This credential permits teachers to teach all CS courses if they do not have a computer science degree

CTE Professional Learning "AI Fellow" program with the University of Louisville

- This fellowship builds advanced AI capacity among CTE educators, supporting statewide instructional leadership and deepening expertise within programs.
- Fellowship program developing AI-skilled teacher leaders.

Use of intelligent meeting summaries and AI-based efficiency tools (Microsoft/Google)

- KDE models the use of AI-powered productivity tools that district staff can adopt to improve efficiency and streamline administrative tasks while maintaining security and transparency

Student & Teacher Supports

Supports include opportunities to model appropriate student use. AI-enabled supports provide actionable insights that improve attendance, engagement, and success.

Early Warning Reporting Tool in Infinite Campus

- Kentucky's AI-enabled early warning system identifies students who may need support in attendance, engagement, or academic persistence. This helps educators intervene earlier and more effectively.
- AI-assisted student early warning insights in Infinite Campus.

Rollout of "Diego," the AI bot guiding future educators through EPSB processes

- Diego improves user experience for aspiring teachers by helping them locate licensure and certification information safely and efficiently.
- AI bot that simplifies navigation of EPSB resources for future teachers.

STLP models appropriate AI Utilization in the Classroom

- STLP embeds ways that AI can support student creativity, problem-solving, and communication while keeping human decisions at the center of the work.
- Through real K–12 projects and clear usage expectations, students learn how AI can assist their thinking without replacing their own ideas and skills.
- Inclusion of STLP Statewide AI challenge for all grade level(s) which provides opportunity for students to demonstrate safe and appropriate AI utilization in a vibrant learning experience along with their peers. Opportunity to model and celebrate safe AI utilization on expansive, state-wide scale.

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AI Fluency and Digital Citizenship

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Publishing AI guidance for STLP activities and competitions

- Kentucky models responsible AI use for students by providing clear expectations for when and how AI can support creative digital work, reinforcing transparency and ethical practice.
- STLP guidance that models safe, secure, ethical, and responsible AI use.

Updating academic standards to include ethical AI use (cross-listed here as well)

- Because standards revisions span both readiness and AI literacy, these updates help students build understanding of bias, data, limitations, and human judgment in AI systems.
- Standards reinforcing student understanding of AI.

CI and IT Academy Student Industry Certifications

- Builds real-world, career-ready AI fluency aligned to industry expectations, strengthening students' readiness for CS and IT certifications and future workplace demands
- Prepares students to use AI tools safely and responsibly through strong digital citizenship practices, including transparency, accountability, and ethical decision-making

Emerging Innovations

AI is part of Kentucky's commitment to expanding opportunity for every learner by supporting thoughtful experimentation, access to emerging technologies, and future-ready skills.

AI driven network monitoring tools that strengthen cybersecurity readiness

- GoGuardian uses AI and machine learning to help keep students safe online by analyzing browsing activity and on-screen content in real time. Its tools identify and block harmful or inappropriate content, detect potential safety concerns such as self-harm or violence, and alert school staff so adults can review the context and respond appropriately.
- The AI is designed to support, not replace, human decision-making, helping create safer digital learning experiences.

Piloting and Integrating AI tools responsibly at KDE to model for District/School w/ KDE Agency AI Policy

- KDE becomes a proving ground for thoughtful AI use, demonstrating practical, safe approaches that educators across Kentucky can replicate.

AI Powered data visualization tools helping leaders interpret trends and patterns

- Effectively used at district level as well as classroom level to bring data points "to life" and meaningful

Statewide student K-12 AI Challenge hosted by STLP

- Creates a statewide, student-led proving ground for emerging AI tools and practices, helping Kentucky surface innovative classroom-ready ideas and share scalable models across districts
- Reinforces safe and responsible AI use through an education-first, humans-in-the-loop approach–highlighting transparency, disclosure, and accountability while showcasing real-world problem solving

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AI in Action Quick List

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- Statewide reporting tracking intentional AI use (Digital Readiness + student Speak Up)
- AI strategy built on the KETS Master Plan foundation
- Updated District Acceptable/Responsible Use Policy through KSBA
- Academic standards updated to infuse AI concepts (KAS for Technology - "using AI," KAS for CS - "making AI," and KAS for Library Media - "engaging w/ AI")
- New **CTE** local AI career pathway
- Employability standards to include ethical and general use of AI, AI in the workplace (**CTE**)
- AI competencies integrated into **CTE** pathways
- AI course for all educators developed via multi-state collaborative (KyLearningHub - CCSSO partnership)
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- **CTE** "AI Fellows" program for developing teacher leaders launched in partnership with the University of Louisville
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- STLP as a statewide model for responsible classroom AI integration/ AI challenges
- STLP guidance modeling safe, transparent, and age appropriate student use of AI
- KY Academic Standards reinforcing student understanding of AI's role, limitations and appropriate application, representing safe, age-appropriate use of AI in student-created digital work
- CS & IT Academy Student Industry Certifications
- AI-driven network monitoring tools that strengthen cybersecurity readiness (GoGuardian)
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