



Commonwealth of Kentucky

2008 NASCIO Recognition Awards Nomination

**Category: Cross-Boundary Collaboration  
and Partnerships**

**No Pass No Drive**

*Department of Education and Department of Transportation*



## Executive Summary

Policymakers in Kentucky sought to create a bill supporting dropout prevention and encouraging high school students to pass their courses. On June 26, 2007, the “No Pass/No Drive” bill (HB 32) became effective and amended KRS 159.051. This bill allows the Commonwealth of Kentucky to revoke a student’s driver’s license for academic deficiency (not having passing grades in at least four courses), or dropping out of school as a result of excessive or unexcused absences (nine or more unexcused absences in the preceding semester). The Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, and Kentucky Interactive, LLC worked together to provide an online solution that answer the needs of HB 32.

The web application integrated the Department of Education and the Transportation Cabinet’s pre-existing backend systems and provides electronic communication between schools (all 174 school districts across Kentucky) and the Division of Driver’s Licensing. The application was developed to be user-friendly and efficient allowing a variety of different users to have a similar, streamlined experience.

The Kentucky Department of Education worked with the public and private schools throughout the commonwealth to implement the change in law. Representatives in each high school in the 174 public school districts registered and were trained to report student status changes.

No Pass No Drive was implemented on a very tight timeframe of approximately one month from bill passage on June 26, 2007 to implementation on July 31, 2007. The application is a free service to the users. No Pass No Drive currently enables users from 174 public school districts, over 400 public schools, and 40 private schools access to electronically report changes to their students’ statuses.

### Summary of Benefits

- Provides the means for government to collaborate quickly and efficiently
- A 30% increase in efficiencies associated with documenting student status changes
- Encourages students to remain in school and to do well academically by reporting changes in a student’s status should it change
- A successfully deployed online application developed through partnerships between two large state agencies, 174 school districts, and a private sector partner in approximately one month
- Provided at no cost to the taxpayers and government of Kentucky

## **Project Description**

### **Problem**

The passage of House Bill 32 required that the Kentucky Department of Education communicate directly with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet to ensure that only students in sound academic standing obtain or maintain their driving licenses or permits. Every public school district and all private schools had to comply with the passage of the House Bill. With a tight timeline of approximately one month between the bill and the required launch, both public entities worked closely with Kentucky Interactive, LLC (KI) to establish an online system that informed the Division of Driver's Licensing when a student should not retain a license based on poor grades or attendance.

### **Barriers**

The Department of Education and the Transportation Cabinet faced a very tight timeline to place a system into production that would communicate between schools, the Department of Education and the Transportation Cabinet. With so many players involved, a web-based application provided the only efficient means to communicate data securely and in real-time. The real-time alert lets the Division of Driver's Licensing know that a student is no longer eligible to drive and to take immediate action to suspend the license. Without an online system, the process would prove to be very difficult, if not impossible.

### **Assessment and Decision Process**

To be able to meet the implementation timeline and be able to make real-time changes to a driver's status, an online web application was the only viable option. Users are scattered throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky and a web application was the obvious choice to communicate 24/7 with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet database.

## Solution

The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet approached KI to develop the application and provide project management to implement the solution. The application was developed using ASP.Net and communicates to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet via a secure web service.

The project involved the Department of Education, The Transportation Cabinet, and KI and required approximately 500 hours to complete. Completed under the self-funded model provided by KI, there were no costs involved nor are there any fees associated with the use of the system.

A prototype was designed around the requirements of the legislation and individual needs of the agencies involved. The prototype provided the basis for the final product and allowed for modifications prior to development of the system. Once approved, the application was developed and placed into a test environment where it was tested by all parties and revised as necessary. The final system design was placed into production on July 31, 2007 in time for the August 1, 2007 deadline for implementation.

## Length of time in operation

The application has been in continuous operation in a production environment since July 31, 2007.

## Communications Plans

The Department of Education conducted seminars with the school districts throughout Kentucky. A PowerPoint presentation was originated and presented to the districts with complete instructions of the law and the new application. Each district was required to have each of their respective schools sign up for an account with their respective username and

password through KI. Usernames were collected and supplied to KI and proper access granted.

### **Significance to the Improvement of the Operation of Government**

The Kentucky Department of Education, the Transportation Cabinet, the school systems within the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the constituents of Kentucky have benefitted from the impact of this endeavor. To be able to meet the deadline imposed by the legislation and to automate the implementation of the administration of the law, an automated approach was crucial. The Transportation Cabinet and the Department of Education worked together with KI to implement a solution that provided an efficient way to administer the legislation for the long term. The process between the Transportation Cabinet and the Department of Education has resulted in a 30% improvement in cost and processing efficiencies alone. In addition, several other key players benefit from this service:

#### **Kentucky Transportation Cabinet**

This cabinet is responsible for the accurate maintenance of driver licenses and driving history records for Kentucky. The web-based application No Pass No Drive communicates to the Transportation Cabinet's database and provides real-time updates. This eliminates any manual intervention by the Cabinet to update their records. In addition, the web-based system helps with accuracy and immediate turn around as status changes are reported.

#### **Kentucky Department of Education**

The additional burden of reporting due to the No Pass No Drive legislation has been tremendously lessened by the automation provided by this application. Reports were streamlined through the online system to ensure ease and provide little disruption to staff and their current workload. As a result, no new staffing was required to handle the requirements of HB 32. Once the program was rolled out to the school systems, many responsibilities were automated. Users apply online for usernames and passwords and any maintenance of those usernames is handled online. This eliminates any burden to the staff for username and password maintenance.

In addition, the Department of Education does not have to be involved in the reporting from the schools because the system provides each school the means to communicate directly with the Transportation Cabinet as status' change.

#### Schools and School Systems in Kentucky

There are 174 public schools systems in Kentucky and all participate to report the requirements of the No Pass No Drive law. This means 447 public schools plus over 40 private schools can easily report students who fail to qualify or who regain their eligibility to the Transportation Cabinet and driving records can be updated instantaneously. Even manual errors can be corrected by school staff.

#### Students and Parents

Although no student wants to have their driving privileges curtailed, the process is simple. If students do not attend class as required or pass the appropriate amount of classes each semester, the school reports the transgression securely online and the driving status on a student's permit or license reflects this in the system immediately. Likewise, when a student qualifies to be reinstated, the student is not involved in the process. The school reports the change and the transaction is reported immediately. The Transportation Cabinet generates an automated letter as official notification to the student/parent. Parents and students alike do not have to fill out forms or make any contact other than with their respective school.

#### **Benefit of the Project**

This application was built at no cost to the Commonwealth of Kentucky by KI. Through KI's unique self-funded model, the state receives at no cost all necessary hardware, software, administration, and other services necessary for the success of the system. However, to build a useful system, KI gathered information from both public entities. The project could only be successful with both agencies receiving the correct information and receiving that information regularly.

The return to the Commonwealth of Kentucky has been the ability to meet the new state regulation while not increasing staff. In fact, the system has provided a 30% increase in efficiencies for the commonwealth including both in staff time and cost associated with the transaction. Completion of the application is a simple process shared by the schools. The system is available 24/7 so access is convenient for school administrators. If a manual error is made, the ability to correct the transaction is provided online.

For years parents have reminded their sons and daughters that driving is a privilege to be treated responsibly. The new law that was implemented on August 1, 2007 pairs the responsibility of maintaining successful grades and attendance in the classroom with the privilege of driving. Thanks to the No Pass No Drive system, government can collaborate effectively to ensure that Kentucky's new law is enforced.