



KAN-ED SUMMARY REPORT

January 2025

KAN-ED NETWORK

The purpose of this report is to fulfil the requirements to report on the Kan-Ed program per KSA 75-7226.

In 2001 the Kansas State Legislature enacted K.S.A. 75-7221 to create the Kan-Ed Network. Its purpose was to create a broadband network to provide internet to Kansas hospitals, libraries, and schools, with a focus on increased collaboration and video conferencing. Funding was established in 2002 through transfers from the Kansas Universal Services Fund (KUSF), with the intent that funding would eventually be replaced by money from the State General Fund. Appropriations from the State General Fund never covered the entirety of network access costs.

The Kan-Ed Network backbone was first established in FY 2004 through a partnership with local internet service providers. Eligible institutions could connect voluntarily. A prime motivation for members to connect was the stability of the private network and its ability to enhance distance learning. Over the years, Kan-Ed also provided video conference scheduling and bridging to further facilitate distance learning and collaboration. Kan-Ed also provided additional content and services, aggregating the purchasing power of its participants to drive down the network access costs.

Over time, the Kan-Ed network evolved with changes in technology. In 2009 the network was re-engineered, making use of AVPN technology to provide lower cost, better efficiencies, easier management, and billing. This meant contracting out to a single vendor rather than partnering with many vendors, although the single vendor still had to purchase circuits from other vendors to make connections.

In 2012, the Kansas Legislature amended the statute, directing Kan-Ed to phase out and decommission the Kan-Ed Network by June of 2013, and changing 'Kan-Ed Network' to 'Kan-Ed Program.' All state funding for the Kan-Ed program, either State General Fund or KUSF, ceased in June of 2013 when the network was fully de-commissioned.

With no state funding, and a directive from the Legislature to look for alternative funding, Kan-Ed started in 2013 to make use of existing equipment and provide video conference scheduling and bridging for a fee. This was during a time when video conferencing technologies were changing, and access was more readily available to all. By this time, fees Kan-Ed received for network activity could not cover the costs for renewal of maintenance contracts for the hardware and software that was required for the network to operate, nor could it pay for replacement of the equipment and software which had reached its end of life.

In Fall of 2015, the notice went out to all making use of the scheduling service that it would be decommissioned in June of 2016, and they would need to find alternative arrangements for network access. This was made easier by the fact that there were now many more options available by vendors, at reasonable costs than existed at the launch of the Kan-Ed Network.

As of July of 2016, all Kan-Ed equipment and software was decommissioned, and no future activity is anticipated.

Please contact the Kansas Board of Regents office with any questions regarding this program.