



## KANSAS BOARD OF REGENTS

### Senate Utilities Committee Kan-ed Update January 30, 2013

Chairman Apple and members of the Senate Utilities Committee, House Bill 2390, which was passed in the 2012 Legislative Session, included a number of responsibilities related to Kan-ed, the state's broadband network for schools, libraries, and hospitals. The following is a brief summary of the work of the Kan-ed staff to implement these responsibilities. HB 2390 required Kan-ed to:

#### **Disconnect all circuits by June 30, 2013**

1. We began disconnecting directly connected members on October 8<sup>th</sup>.
2. Approximately 200 disconnected as of 12/31/12.
3. Approximately another 130 will be disconnected between 1/1/13 and 3/1/13
4. The last 50 will be disconnected by June 10, 2012. These 50 are the last to be disconnected because they pay the entire cost of their circuit.

#### **Provide a subsidy of up to \$350 per month to Kan-ed members after being disconnected from the Kan-ed network**

Information regarding how to apply for a subsidy is sent to members two weeks after being disconnected. This subsidy is for FY 13 only.

#### **Report on Distance Learning and Telemedicine usage**

The attached report on Telemedicine indicates that the Kan-ed video equipment is being used for medical education. Doctors using video for consultations with patients are low but growing. The attached press release from the Governor's office explains how the VA is beginning to use video for doctor patient consultations. Charts and graphs in the full report indicate the growing use of video for distance learning in K12, higher education, and the hospital environments.

#### **Present options for shared resource fee for schools, libraries, and hospitals for distance learning and telemedicine**

On page 7 of the report, you will find a proposed fee schedule for use of the Kan-ed video equipment. Please keep in mind that this provision will require a statutory change in order for Kan-ed to charge fees for services.

**Establish technical standards for operation of the program.**

The technical standard that Kan-ed uses for the video services it provides to its members is based on an industry standard referred to as H.323. H.323 is a recommendation from the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector (ITU-T) that defines the protocols to provide audio-visual communication sessions on any network. This technical standard is not exclusive to any specific hardware or software products and is widely adopted.

Additionally, the Kansas Department of Commerce was directed to conduct a needs assessment through a third party contract that (A) compares the utilization, efficiency and effectiveness of KAN-ED to other similar programs in other states for schools, libraries and hospitals; (B) determines if the KAN-ED program, as of the effective date of this act, is worth its cost in terms of price, service, quality, needed network upgrades and increased utilization of broadband by schools, libraries and hospitals; (C) determines if there are alternative models or opportunities for broadband procurement by schools, libraries and hospitals; (D) determines if the services and applications offered by KAN-ED lead to full utilization of broadband technology by schools, libraries, hospitals and their surrounding communities; and (E) recommends any cost effective broadband services that are available. It is our understanding that this report will be completed by January 31.