



## **Kan-ed Fast Facts and Legislative Brief**

- 1) **Membership:** 94% (837 of 892) of eligible schools, libraries, hospitals and higher education institutions are members of Kan-ed.
- 2) **Connections:** Kan-ed 2.0 has service orders for over 700 connections for 515 members. That equates to 62% of the membership being physically connected to the network.
- 3) **Federal Dollars:** Kan-ed brings in over \$3.3 million of federal assistance to schools, libraries and hospitals. This is in the form of discounts on telecom services.
- 4) **Services:**
  - a. Over 419,000 people use the Kan-ed Empowered Desktop for access to databases, electronic file storage, K-12 assessment practice tests and more.
  - b. Every hospital is connected to EMResource, a real-time disaster tracking and resource to identify medical resources in an emergency.
  - c. Kan-ed provides scheduled video-conferencing services. Over 17,000 video conferences are scheduled from Oct. 2008 through June 2009.
  - d. Kan-ed provides E-Rate services and CIPA filtering for schools and libraries so they may apply for E-rate to maximize federal funding.
- 5) **Internet Connectivity:** Kan-ed has partnered with over 25 local providers to bring schools, libraries and hospitals up to a minimum of a 1.5mb broadband connection. Members can connect using a local Kan-ed Authorized Provider, or the State contracted provider.

### **Funding for FY2010**

The Governor, Board of Regents, and Legislative Educational Planning Committee have recommended that Kan-ed be funded 100% through the Kansas Universal Service Fund (KUSF) in FY2010. Kan-ed is currently funded at 80% KUSF and 20% State General Fund. The current statute requires Kan-ed funding to move to 100% SGF in FY2010. Due to the extreme economic conditions, SGF funding is not possible. KUSF funding is appropriate for Kan-ed since one of the reasons for establishing the KUSF in the 1996 Kansas Telecom Act was to:

- 1) *Advance the development of a statewide telecommunications infrastructure that is capable of supporting applications, such as public safety, **telemedicine**, services for*

*persons with special needs, distance learning, public library services, access to internet providers and others;*

Twenty-seven states use a KUSF type of fund for providing universal broadband to schools, libraries and hospitals. The KUSF is collected by phone companies on voice, cellular and VOIP services. These funds are then sent to the KCC and redistributed by the KCC to eligible telecom entities, for which Kan-ed is one. Kan-ed meets policy in both the Kansas Telecom Act of 1996 and Federal Telecommunications ACT of 1996 by providing enhanced universal service to schools, libraries and hospitals. Broadband is defined as 1.5mb in the Act, as well.

### **Myths and Facts about Kan-ed and the KUSF:**

- **Myth:** Citizens are moving towards cellular phones and Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) so the KUSF fund will decrease.
  - **Fact:** Both cellular service AND VOIP services (as of January 2009) pay into the KUSF fund. There will be SOME toll bypass, but not as much as projected originally.
- **Myth:** KUSF takes away funding from local phone companies.
  - **Fact:** The KUSF fund is formula driven. If Kan-ed funding decreases from the KUSF, then the fund pool decreases. It does not leave more money for other eligible telecom entities.
  - **Fact:** The majority of KUSF funding Kan-ed receives goes back directly into eligible telecom companies and private industry which drives economic factors.
- **Myth:** Kan-ed is an Internet Service Provider placing the state government in competition with industry.
  - **Fact:** Kan-ed leases services and leases/purchases equipment from the private telecom and cable industry.
  - **Fact:** Kan-ed is not allowed to own or lease to own any equipment or services that are under the E-Rate program. Kan-ed must lease them from eligible telecom carriers.

Please urge your legislators to support Kan-ed funding at \$10 million from the KUSF in FY2010. We must ensure that the Governor's budget recommendation for Kan-ed is approved.