

Kan-ed

In 2001, the Kansas Legislature created a statewide network called Kan-ed to service the informational and educational needs of its constituent groups (higher education institutions, K-12 schools, hospitals, and libraries). Kan-ed is housed within the Kansas Board of Regents.

Kan-ed has three primary objectives:

- Develop and maintain a private, secure network to facilitate collaboration between Kan-ed members
- Provide leadership and funding to develop quality content and services that meet the informational and educational needs of its members, and
- Provide subsidies and act as a broker to reduce the costs of Internet connectivity and proprietary educational resources for its members.

Kan-ed is governed by a User Advisory Council, consisting of representatives from each constituent group appointed by the major ruling body, and the Delegate Assembly, which is elected by the membership. These bodies set the direction for Kan-ed and act as communication links between the constituents and Kan-ed staff.

Evaluation has played a key role in Kan-ed since its inception. Evaluation activities to date include creating and maintaining essential databases, generating and revising forms and protocols for data collection, and conducting research on issues relevant to the Kan-ed initiative, including use of distance education, availability of broadband services, needs assessments, and strategic planning. Evaluators gather information and seek feedback from Kan-ed staff, constituent group members, and other stakeholders through interviews, observation, focus groups, and surveys. Evaluators process data collected from these sources using qualitative and quantitative methods, produce reports for involved parties, and disseminate findings at professional meetings and conferences.

The Office of Educational Innovation and Evaluation (OEIE) provides both formative and summative evaluation. Formative evaluation identifies the strengths and weaknesses of Kan-ed's ongoing initiatives and enables Kan-ed to make adjustments when programs are not accomplishing their stated goals and objectives. Kan-ed uses summative evaluation to determine the overall success of completed initiatives and maximize the use of its resources by continuing its most successful programs.

OEIE prepares four major reports per year for Kan-ed: two project status reports, a biannual report, and an annual performance report. OEIE has been responsive to the needs of the initiative by providing additional supporting services and data as requested.

For more information, contact:

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