



# Legislative Post Audit Performance Audit Report Highlights

## Regents' Information Systems: Following Up On Computer-Security Issues At Various Universities

### Report Highlights

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#### Audit Concern

*This audit follows up on the recommendations from our 2005 audit of IT security at three Regents' universities—Kansas State University, Emporia State University, and the University of Kansas.*

#### Key Facts & Findings

- We followed up on 107 policy recommendations from the 2005 audit:
  - ESU fully implemented 28 of its 41 recommendations
  - KSU fully implemented only 7 of its 33 recommendations
  - KU fully implemented only 5 of its 33 recommendations
- Our testing of actual practices in six policy areas found significant problems with the access controls at one university.
- Because publically identifying certain control weaknesses could compromise universities' security, our detailed findings are described in confidential reports for each university.

Estimated Cost Savings:  
None

**AUDIT QUESTION 1:** *Have the Regents' institutions adequately addressed the security recommendations from our 2005 computer-security audit?*

#### AUDIT ANSWER:

- The 2005 audit included a number of recommendations related to missing or inadequate security policies, and to non-policy areas such as the authority of the security officer position.
- The three universities have fully implemented very few of the policy recommendations from the 2005 report in such areas as access controls, incident response, and physical security.
- The universities have implemented most of the non-policy recommendations from the 2005 audit report, in such areas as security management and the organization of their IT infrastructure.
- Security policies are the foundation of a well-designed system of security management, and the three universities generally have done a poor job implementing the policy recommendations over the last three years.

#### We Recommended

- The universities should develop and approve written security policies by January 2010 for all the recommendations that haven't yet been fully addressed, and report periodically on their progress.
- The Legislative Post Audit Committee and the Joint Committee on Information Technology should receive testimony from the universities on the status of these policy recommendations sometime after January 2010.

**Agency Response:** *In general, the universities agreed with the report and our recommendations. In the responses to the confidential reports, both Kansas State and Emporia State had issues with a recommendation on access control.*

**DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR  
IMPROVED GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY OR COST SAVINGS?**

If you have an idea to share with us, send it to [ideas@lpa.ks.gov](mailto:ideas@lpa.ks.gov), or write to us at the address shown. We will pass along the best ones to the Legislative Post Audit Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE DIVISION OF  
POST AUDIT**

800 SW Jackson  
Suite 1200  
Topeka, Kansas 66612-2212  
Telephone (785) 296-3792  
FAX (785) 296-4482  
E-mail: [LPA@lpa.ks.gov](mailto:LPA@lpa.ks.gov)  
Website:  
<http://kslegislature.org/postaudit>

Barbara J. Hinton,  
Legislative Post Auditor

For more information about this  
audit report, please contact

**ALLAN FOSTER**  
(785) 296-3792  
[allan.foster@lpa.ks.gov](mailto:allan.foster@lpa.ks.gov)