

**(OEB) EDUCATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK
COMMISSION**

Higher Education Improvement Fund	\$9,498,544
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HIGHER EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT FUND (034)

CAP-001	Educational TV and Radio Equipment (Statewide)	Capital Equipment	\$3,498,544
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These funds are used to provide broadcasting, transmission, and production equipment to Ohio public radio stations, public television stations, public radio reading services, and the Ohio Educational Telecommunications Network Commission (OEB). OEB currently provides multiple-video-data services to twelve public educational television stations, fifteen public radio stations, and nine radio reading services through its fiber-optic interconnection system.

CAP-003	Statewide Digital Television Fund (Statewide)	Capital Equipment	\$6,000,000
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These funds are to be used to support the conversion of Ohio's twelve public television stations from analog to federally mandated digital broadcasting technology. This transition from analog to digital technology is in response to a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) requirement that both commercial and non-commercial television stations in the United States have the capability of providing digital service prior to 2003. While the FCC timetable for implementation requires that the digital technology be in place by 2003, the continued provision of analog service will not be discontinued until 2006. These funds are in addition to \$12,000,000 transferred from the GRF to OEB Fund 5D3, High Definition Television in Am. Sub. H.B. 283 of the 123rd General Assembly to provide payments to public television affiliates to support the acquisition of digital television transmitter equipment. With the \$6,000,000 in appropriations contained in the bill, total support for digital conversion provided over the last two years has reached \$18,000,000, an amount OEB believes is \$10.8 million short of what would be necessary to fully address the equipment needs in this area. That said however, a representative of the Office of Budget and Management believes that while the full amount deemed necessary by OEB is not provided in this bill, the possibility exists that the additional appropriations could be recommended as part of either the next operating or capital budget.