

Budget Brief – Education Contracts

SUMMARY

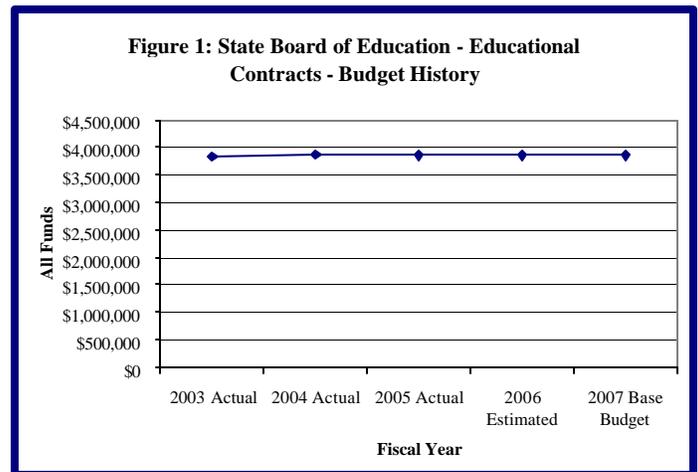
The Education Contracts program provides funding for the education of students in state custody. The Utah State Board of Education contracts with various local school districts to provide educational services to these students. Educational services are provided through two programs, the Youth Center and Corrections Institutions. The Youth Center is located in Provo at the State Hospital. Corrections Institutions provides educational services throughout the state, primarily at the state prisons in Draper and Gunnison. Further information on the Education Contracts program may be found in chapter 12 of the Compendium of Budget Information (COBI).

ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Appropriations Committee (EAC) has made base budget allocations to the various appropriations subcommittees. The budget detail table on page 2 includes the funding detail for the ongoing base budget for the Education Contracts programs.

FY 2007 Base Budget

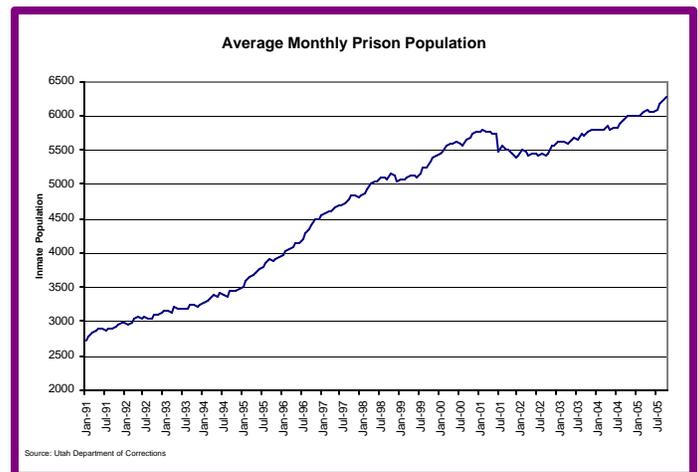
The ongoing base budget for this program is \$3,854,800 in FY 2007. This amount is included in S.B. 1 “State Agency and Higher Education Base Budget Appropriations.” FY 2007 base budget revenue for the Youth Center totals \$1,153,200 and base budget revenue for Corrections Institutions totals \$2,701,600.



Education Contracts revenue is ‘passed-through’ to the school districts providing the educational services. Adoption of the base budget will provide the same FY 2006 level of funding to these providers. The number of individuals served has not decreased over the past year. Reallocations from, or reductions to, the Education Contracts base budget are not recommended at this time.

Corrections Growth

The inmate population in the state’s prisons has increased steadily over the past several years. The total inmate population exceeds 6,300 individuals. An increasing inmate population has prompted the Utah Department of Corrections to seek ways to increase inmate capacity. The budget to provide educational services to Utah’s incarcerated population has remained around \$2.7 million for the past 5 years. Should the capacity of Utah’s prison facilities or county jails increase over the coming years, a portion of these inmates will require educational services. Significant growth in the inmate population may impact the ability of educational service providers to meet demand.



Recommendation: The Analyst recommends that the State Board of Education review the Corrections Institutions program and evaluate the program funding level allocated for the program in relation to the demand for services. Further, the Analyst recommends that the Board provide recommendations to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee before the 2007 General Session on any necessary changes to the program budget.

ACCOUNTABILITY DETAIL

During the past year, 23 school districts and 6 higher education institutions provided educational services in the state prisons or county jails. In the last year Corrections Institutions awarded a total of 631 high school diplomas and 471 GED certificates.

In addition to the detail provided in the table "Corrections Education Accountability", roughly 1,847 inmates received National Institute of Corrections Cognitive Restructuring services, namely, thinking and problem solving skills. An additional 5,379 inmates received life skills training such as anger management, communication, parenting, job readiness, and job retention.

Corrections Education Accountability									
Service	2002-2003			2003-2004			2004-2005		
	Prisons	Jails	Total	Prisons	Jails	Total	Prisons	Jails	Total
High School									
Total Enrollment	6,026	3,025	9,051	4,742	4,028	8,770	5,743	3,300	9,043
Contact Hours	615,561	181,009	796,570	644,772	166,957	811,729	758,277	144,854	903,131
Credits Earned	6,749	6,091	12,840	6,500	5,353	11,853	5,123	4,716	9,839
Academic Level Gains	2,251	834	3,085	814	648	1,462	965	550	1,515
High School Diplomas	318	435	753	338	466	804	275	356	631
GED Certificates	102	329	431	141	332	473	148	323	471
Occupational Training									
Total Enrollment	961	96	1,057	982	286	1,268	1,088	334	1,422
Vocational Certificates	74	10	84	58	67	125	68	68	136
Associate Degrees	40		40	33		33	24	6	30
Baccalaureate Degrees	4		4	7	1	8	4	1	5
Masters Degrees			0	2		2	0		0

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

Revenue to support the programs in Education Contracts comes entirely from the Uniform School Fund. All revenue supports the education of individuals in the custody of the state and is passed through to the school districts providing those services.

State Board of Education - Educational Contracts						
Sources of Finance	FY 2005	FY 2006	Changes	FY 2006	Changes	FY 2007*
	Actual	Appropriated		Revised		Base Budget
Uniform School Fund	3,854,800	3,854,800	0	3,854,800	0	3,854,800
Total	3,854,800	3,854,800	\$0	3,854,800	\$0	3,854,800
Programs						
Youth Center	1,153,200	1,153,200	0	1,153,200	0	1,153,200
Corrections Institutions	2,701,600	2,701,600	0	2,701,600	0	2,701,600
Total	3,854,800	3,854,800	\$0	3,854,800	\$0	3,854,800
Categories of Expenditure						
Current Expense	15,200	15,200	0	15,200	0	15,200
Other Charges/Pass Thru	3,839,600	3,839,600	0	3,839,600	0	3,839,600
Total	3,854,800	3,854,800	\$0	3,854,800	\$0	3,854,800

*Does not include amounts in excess of subcommittee's state fund allocation that may be recommended by the Fiscal Analyst.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

This section summarizes what actions might be taken if the Legislature wishes to adopt the recommendations presented in this brief. The Analyst recommends that the Legislature consider:

1. Reaffirm the base budget amount of \$3,854,800 for the Education Contracts programs detailed in the Budget Detail Table above.
2. Recommend that the State Board of Education evaluate the Corrections Institutions Program and report to the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee on any recommended funding changes.