

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 20 of the Compendium of Budget Information (COBI) for Public Education for the 2008 General Session.

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.

The co-chairs of the EAC recommend that the subcommittee complete the following tasks: review agency base budgets; reallocate revenue where possible within the base budget to meet new subcommittee budget priorities; and, develop a priority list, to be submitted to the EAC, of new budget priorities not completed through budgetary reallocations.

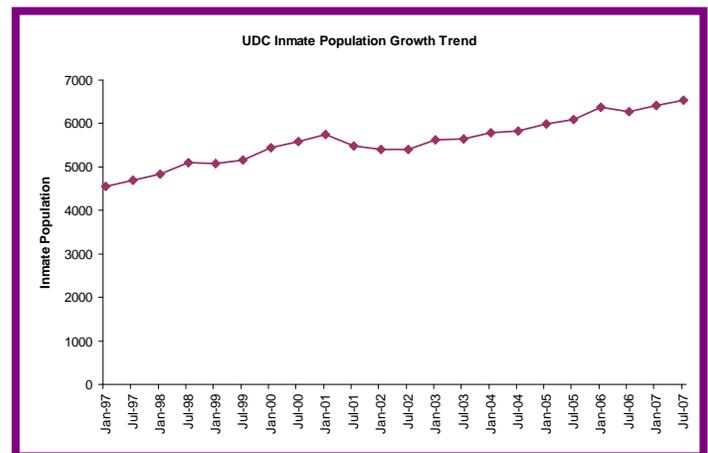
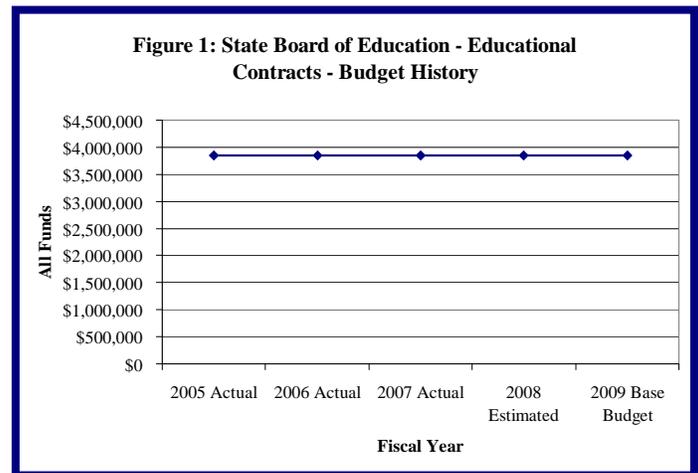
FY 2008 Base Budget

The ongoing base budget for this program is \$3,854,800 in FY 2009. This amount is included in S.B. 1 “State Agency and Higher Education Base Budget Appropriations.” FY 2009 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 2009 level of funding to these providers. The number of individuals served has increased over the years though funding has remained constant.

Corrections Growth

The inmate population in the state’s prisons has increased steadily over the past several years—currently exceeding 6,400 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.



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 706 high school diplomas and 457 GED certificates.

Corrections Education									
Service	2004-2005			2005-2006			2006-2007		
	Prisons	Jails	Total	Prisons	Jails	Total	Prisons	Jails	Total
High School									
Total Enrollment	5,743	3,300	9,043	4,143	3,573	7,716	4,318	3,570	7,888
Contact Hours	758,277	144,854	903,131	565,449	171,645	737,094	685,041	194,200	879,241
Credits Earned	5,123	4,716	9,839	5,114	4,492	9,606	5,141	4,962	10,103
Academic Level Gains	965	550	1,515	987	577	1,564	559	577	1,136
High School Diplomas	275	356	631	322	312	634	324	382	706
GED Certificates	148	323	471	145	314	459	174	283	457
Occupational Training									
Total Enrollment	1,088	334	1,422	691	295	986	756	379	1,135
Vocational Certificates	68	68	136	34	41	75	67	76	143
Associate Degrees	24	6	30	50	12	62	50	12	62
Baccalaureate Degrees	4	1	5	3	5	8	17	2	19
Masters Degrees									

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 2007	FY 2008	Changes	FY 2008	Changes	FY 2009*
	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	(15,200)	0
Other Charges/Pass Thru	3,839,600	3,839,600	0	3,839,600	(2,686,400)	1,153,200
Total	\$3,854,800	\$3,854,800	\$0	\$3,854,800	(\$2,701,600)	\$1,153,200

*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. Place on the priority list an ongoing appropriation of \$162,100 from the Uniform School Fund for Corrections Education.
2. Place on the priority list an ongoing appropriation of \$69,200 from the Uniform School Fund for the Youth Center Contract Increase.