

Budget Brief – Science Outreach

NUMBER: PED SCIENCE-01

SUMMARY

The Science Education Outreach program assists Utah’s professional science organizations in providing their expertise in teaching the State’s science core curriculum in the public schools. Professional organizations match state revenues to support and enhance the delivery of science education through demonstrations, presentations, and educational activities in the public schools.

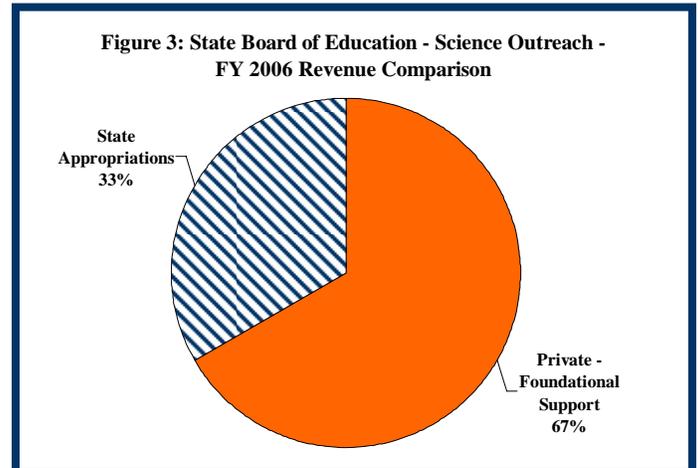
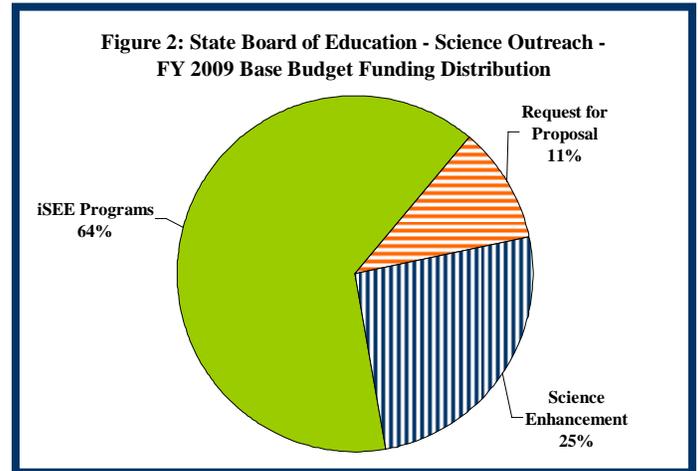
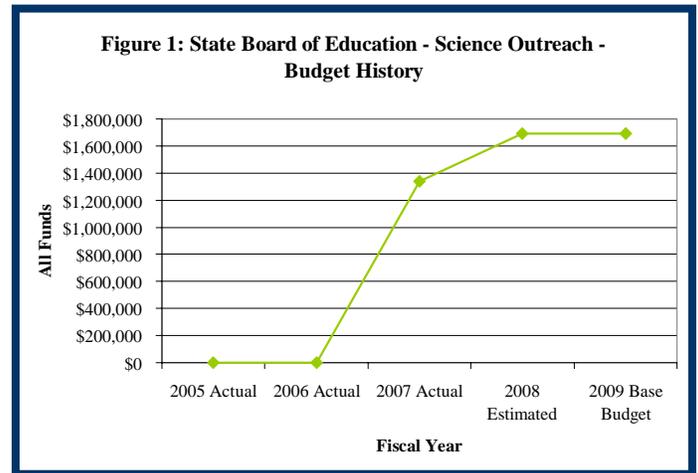
The program ensures that each of the 40 school districts have the opportunity to receive services in a balanced and comprehensive manner over three years. Schools receive services through three programs: the Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE), a Request for Proposal (RFP) program, and a Science Enhancement program.

Program History

Science outreach programs in the public schools began in the 1970s when the Legislature provided revenue to the Hansen Planetarium (now Clark Planetarium) to conduct educational programs and demonstrations. During the 2006 General Session, the Legislature bifurcated the Fine Arts and Sciences program into two separate budgetary line-items, the Fine Arts Outreach program and the Science Outreach program. Each provides the same type of services in the schools (demonstrations, presentations & educational activities), but differ significantly in subject matter. Legislators determined that bifurcation would provide greater visibility to the specific needs of each program and allow the Legislature to focus appropriations to meet specific goals by content area.

Figure 1 shows the total base budget for the science outreach program. Total program funding in FY 2009 totals \$1,689,400. Funding is split among the three operating programs; with the greatest portion supporting the iSEE program, as seen in Figure 2.

Each participating organization matches state revenues appropriated for educational outreach programs. Figure 3 compares the state appropriation to the level of private/foundation revenue supporting educational outreach programs.



ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Appropriations Committee has made base budget allocations to the appropriations subcommittee. The budget detail table below does not include funding for the recommendations made in this brief or other budget priorities the subcommittee may wish to consider. Legislators may wish to consider the following issues and recommendations:

Additional iSEE Outreach Provider

The State Board of Education requests additional ongoing funding for the iSEE program so it can add an additional outreach provider in FY 2009. The Utah Science Center has met the requirements established by the Board to move from the RFP program into the iSEE program. This move will enable the Utah Science Center to stabilize its outreach program and receive ongoing state funding without submitting an RFP each year. The Utah Science Center, with Legislative approval of funding, will become the sixth iSEE provider.

- **Recommendation:** The Analyst recommends that the Legislature prioritize \$220,000 in ongoing Uniform School Funds to support the Utah Science Center's move to the iSEE program.

BUDGET DETAIL

The FY 2009 base budget includes a total appropriation of \$1,689,400 which supports three programs. iSEE is the largest of the three programs, these organizations have fully developed statewide educational outreach programs and each organization receives an ongoing allocation of state funds. These funding levels and program participation are evaluated every four years. Currently, five professional organizations participate in the iSEE program, including: the Clark Planetarium, Discovery Gateway, the Living Planet Aquarium, the Utah Museum of Natural History, and Red Butte Gardens. The iSEE FY 2009 base budget totals \$1,079,400 in ongoing Uniform School Funds.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

State Board of Education - Science Outreach						
Sources of Finance	FY 2007 Actual	FY 2008 Appropriated	Changes	FY 2008 Revised	Changes	FY 2009* Base Budget
Uniform School Fund	1,339,400	1,689,400	0	1,689,400	0	1,689,400
Total	\$1,339,400	\$1,689,400	\$0	\$1,689,400	\$0	\$1,689,400
Programs						
Science Outreach Programs	959,400	1,079,400	0	1,079,400	0	1,079,400
Requests for Proposals	180,000	180,000	0	180,000	0	180,000
Science Enhancement	200,000	430,000	0	430,000	0	430,000
Total	\$1,339,400	\$1,689,400	\$0	\$1,689,400	\$0	\$1,689,400
Categories of Expenditure						
Other Charges/Pass Thru	1,339,400	1,689,400	0	1,689,400	0	1,689,400
Total	\$1,339,400	\$1,689,400	\$0	\$1,689,400	\$0	\$1,689,400

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

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

This section provides a guide of what actions might be taken if the Legislature wishes to adopt the recommendations presented in this brief.

1. Prioritize \$220,000 in ongoing Uniform School Funds to support the inclusion of the Utah Science Center in the iSEE program.