



# EDUCATOR LICENSING

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE  
STAFF: BEN LEISHMAN & PATRICK LEE

BUDGET BRIEF

## SUMMARY

The Legislature, through the Educator Licensing and Professional Practices Act, established that “the high quality of teachers is absolutely essential to enhance student achievement and to assure education excellence in each classroom in the state’s public schools.” The Legislature has established a method of charging licensing fees for educators, ensuring that educators meet and maintain “high standards both as to qualifications and fitness for service as educators” (UCA 53A-6-102(2)).

## DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Through intent language passed in the 2004 General Session, the Legislature requested that the State Board of Education submit an educator licensing fee plan that provided enough revenue to support the costs of the State Office of Education–Educator Licensing Section. The Board submitted a fee plan to the Legislature during the 2005 General Session which was approved and they have continued to do so since that time.

### ***Statute Requires Fees***

The Educator Licensing and Professional Practices Act states that, “the board shall levy a fee for each new, renewed, or reinstated license or endorsement” (UCA 53A-6-105(1)) issued in the state. During the 2004 General Session, the Legislature amended statute to include charging fees for renewed licenses. The statute was amended to ensure that the Utah State Office of Education (USOE) could charge for renewed licenses. The statutory clarification for renewal fees is designed to provide the fee capacity necessary for the USOE to operate educator licensing without the use of Uniform School Funds. By passing the aforementioned intent language, the Legislature reaffirmed the statutes that require educator licensing to collect a fee for these licenses, and the sufficient generation of fee revenue to cover costs.

### ***Fee Revenue Credited to Professional Practices Restricted Subfund***

As mentioned above, educator licensing fee revenue is credited to the Professional Practices Restricted Subfund in the Uniform School Fund. The State Board of Education “shall pay the expenses of issuing licenses and of UPPAC (Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission) operations” as well as the costs of collecting license fee revenue from the restricted subfund” (UCA 53A-6-105(3)).

In the 2007 General Session, the Legislature moved teacher licensing fees into its own line item. This line item was designed to contain all revenue from teacher licensing fees deposited into the Professional Practices Restricted Account. Additionally, the Legislature transferred from Law, Legislation, and Educational Services, the 11.0 FTEs associated with the program to this new line item. This action has required the USOE to account for the proper cost associated with issuing teacher licenses. It has also required the State Office to pay for the FTEs with revenue generated and dedicated for that purpose, pursuant to statute, and not with Uniform School Funds.

The fee schedule submission from the State Board of Education included no changes from the past fiscal year 2009, as was the case in the previous 2009 General Session. Essentially, fee schedules and quantities, and thus revenue, is submitted for FY 2011 exactly the same as FY 2008. Initially the decision was due to no major increases above the usual number of teacher licenses. However, the Board has felt it important to not raise the costs for licensing at this time, if costs for issuing the licenses could be contained within the same budget as previous years.

*Recommendation:* It is the Analyst’s recommendation that the Legislature adopt the fee schedule plan for Educator Licensing FY 2011 (see Attachment A).

**BUDGET DETAIL TABLE**

The following budget table contains detail for the Educator Licensing line item, including “Sources of Finance” and planned “Expenditures” for FY 2011:

State Board of Education - Educator Licensing						
	FY 2009	FY 2010		FY 2010		FY 2011*
Sources of Finance	Actual	Appropriated	Changes	Revised	Changes	Base Budget
Dedicated Credits Revenue	1,465,900	0	1,466,600	1,466,600	(1,466,600)	0
USFR - Professional Practices	0	1,466,700	(1,466,700)	0	1,466,700	1,466,700
Lapsing Balance	(349,900)	(156,600)	(46,900)	(203,500)	(300)	(203,800)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,116,000</b>	<b>\$1,310,100</b>	<b>(\$47,000)</b>	<b>\$1,263,100</b>	<b>(\$200)</b>	<b>\$1,262,900</b>
<b>Programs</b>						
Educator Licensing	1,116,000	1,310,100	(47,000)	1,263,100	(200)	1,262,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,116,000</b>	<b>\$1,310,100</b>	<b>(\$47,000)</b>	<b>\$1,263,100</b>	<b>(\$200)</b>	<b>\$1,262,900</b>
<b>Categories of Expenditure</b>						
Personnel Services	611,500	823,900	(65,300)	758,600	(100)	758,500
In-state Travel	3,000	5,900	(2,900)	3,000	0	3,000
Out-of-state Travel	900	7,500	(6,600)	900	0	900
Current Expense	410,400	352,200	58,200	410,400	(100)	410,300
DP Current Expense	5,200	5,800	(600)	5,200	0	5,200
Other Charges/Pass Thru	85,000	114,800	(29,800)	85,000	0	85,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,116,000</b>	<b>\$1,310,100</b>	<b>(\$47,000)</b>	<b>\$1,263,100</b>	<b>(\$200)</b>	<b>\$1,262,900</b>
<b>Other Data</b>						
Budgeted FTE	10.3	12.0	(1.0)	11.0	0.0	11.0

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

**ATTACHMENT A**

The “Educator Licensing Fee Schedule” includes changes noted between the years. However, as mentioned previously, there are no changes from the FY 2008 schedule submitted by the Board to the FY 2011 schedule. Thus, the revenue column will contain a “0” for each fee where there is no adjustment, meaning no net changes.

<b>Fees for Educator Licensing:</b>	<b>Old Fee</b>	<b>New Fee</b>	<b>Change</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
Teacher Licensure Fees					
Level I					
Out of State					
Evaluation Fee	50.00	50.00	0.00	406	0
Application Fee	81.00	81.00	0.00	478	0
Utah Institutionally Recommended	55.00	55.00	0.00	2,674	0
Out of State					
Additional License Areas and Endorsements	30.00	30.00	0.00	200	0
District/Charter License					
District/Charter License	45.00	45.00	0.00	22	0
Evaluation Fee	50.00	50.00	0.00	50	0
Additional License Areas and Endorsements	30.00	30.00	0.00	50	0
Renewal					
Inactive Educators	70.00	70.00	0.00	600	0
Active Educators	45.00	45.00	0.00	4,900	0
Non-Resident	100.00	100.00	0.00	500	0
Alternative Licensure					
Application and Evaluation	100.00	100.00	0.00	324	0
Program Development and Tracking	300.00	300.00	0.00	167	0
Career and Technical Education					
Career and Technology Education	45.00	45.00	0.00	82	0
Evaluation Fee	50.00	50.00	0.00	211	0
Level Upgrade	45.00	45.00	0.00	877	0
Underqualified Educators					
Letter of Authorization Request	30.00	30.00	0.00	50	0
State Approved Endorsement Program					
Application/Evaluation Fee	35.00	35.00	0.00	50	0
Subsequent Year Supervision Fee	155.00	155.00	0.00	800	0
Endorsements					
Individual Application	40.00	40.00	0.00	1,000	0
Institutionally or District Approved	30.00	30.00	0.00	548	0
Duplicates/Replacements	16.00	16.00	0.00	50	0
Finger Printing Fees					
FBI & BCI	49.00	49.00	0.00	8,821	0
Utah Professional Practices Advisory Commission	20.00	20.00	0.00	8,821	0
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$0</b>