

SCIENCE OUTREACH

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
STAFF: BEN LEISHMAN & THOMAS YOUNG

BUDGET BRIEF

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 public schools have the opportunity to receive services in a balanced and comprehensive manner over three years. Schools receive services through two programs: Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE) and the Science Enhancement. Funding for a third program, Science Outreach – Request for Proposal (RFP), was eliminated during the 2009 General Session.

ISSUES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Base Budget

Senate Bill 1, “Public Education Base Budget includes the ongoing funding levels appropriated in FY 2013. The base budget includes \$2,125,000 ongoing from the Education Fund for FY 2014. Figure 1 shows the history of Science Education Outreach appropriations since FY 2010. Figure 2 shows the distribution of program funding by participating organization.

- The Analyst recommends the ongoing base budget of \$2,125,000 from the Education Fund continue in FY 2014.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Science outreach programs began in the 1970s when the Legislature provided funding to the Hansen Planetarium (now Clark Planetarium) to conduct educational programs and demonstrations. During the 2006 General Session, the Legislature split the Fine Arts and Sciences program into two separate budgetary line-items; Fine Arts Outreach and Science Outreach. Legislators determined that bifurcation provides greater visibility to the specific needs of each program and allow the Legislature to focus funding to meet specific state goals.

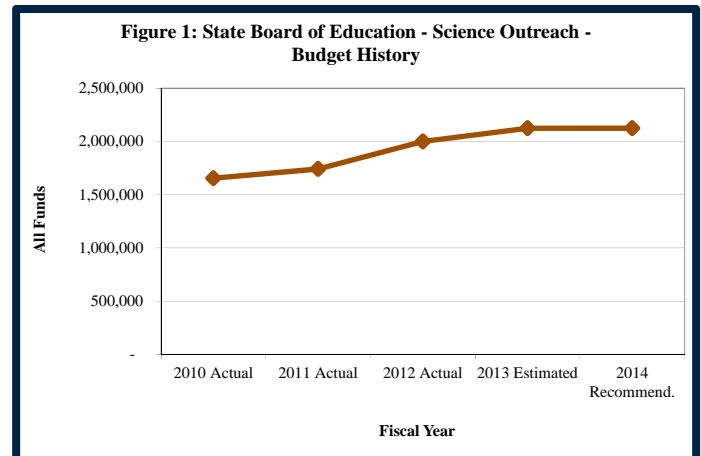


Figure 2: Science Education Outreach
Distribution of Program Funding in FY 2013

iSEE Outreach	
Clark Planetarium	\$594,000
Discovery Gateway	122,300
Red Butte Gardens	180,600
Natural History Museum of Utah	378,700
The Living Planet Aquarium	135,800
The Leonardo	246,500
Subtotal	\$1,657,900
iSEE Enhancement	
The Living Planet Aquarium	\$104,275
Natural History Museum of Utah	104,275
Discovery Gateway	104,275
Clark Planetarium	104,275
Subtotal	\$417,100
Integrated Student & New Facility Learning	
Natural History Museum of Utah	\$25,000
The Leonardo	25,000
Subtotal	\$50,000
Program Total	\$2,125,000

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. Program level funding allocations and program participation are evaluated every four years. Currently, six professional organizations participate in the iSEE program, including: the Clark Planetarium, Discovery Gateway, the Living Planet Aquarium, Red Butte Gardens, the Natural History Museum of Utah, and The Leonardo.

The Science Enhancement program was created during the 2006 General Session. The program provides additional resources to iSEE outreach organizations to expand their programs in order to reach more students and teachers. Organizations are required to apply for funding and demonstrate the additive nature (in terms of students/teachers served) of their programs. This program is largely a teacher-resource program that provides professional development opportunities for science educators.

The RFP program enables smaller, more regional, professional organizations to participate in science education delivery. These programs participate in the RFP to develop educational programs geared to the state core curriculum, expand to provide statewide outreach, and once established receive ongoing funding by becoming a service provider in the iSEE program. Ongoing funding for the RFP program was eliminated in FY 2010.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

The FY 2013 appropriation for Science Education Outreach programs totals \$2,125,000, which is \$125,000 higher than the FY 2012 budget. The budget detail table below provides additional detail on the budget. Similarly, Figure 1 shows the history of Science Education Outreach appropriations since FY 2003. Figure 2 shows the distribution of program funding by participating organization.

Funding Match

Each participating organization matches state funds received through the program with funds from sponsors or grants. The total of all funds are dedicated to the education programs offered by the organizations. Historically, of total dollars supporting education outreach programs 60 percent comes from private matching funds and 40 percent from the state.

BUDGET DETAIL TABLE

State Board of Education - Science Outreach						
Sources of Finance	FY 2012	FY 2013	Changes	FY 2013	Changes	FY 2014*
	Actual	Appropriated		Revised		Recommended
Education Fund	2,000,000	2,125,000	0	2,125,000	0	2,125,000
Total	\$2,000,000	\$2,125,000	\$0	\$2,125,000	\$0	\$2,125,000
Programs						
Informal Science Education Enhanc	1,582,900	1,657,900	0	1,657,900	0	1,657,900
Science Enhancement	417,100	417,100	0	417,100	0	417,100
Integrated Student and New Facility	0	50,000	0	50,000	0	50,000
Total	\$2,000,000	\$2,125,000	\$0	\$2,125,000	\$0	\$2,125,000
Categories of Expenditure						
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2,000,000	2,125,000	0	2,125,000	0	2,125,000
Total	\$2,000,000	\$2,125,000	\$0	\$2,125,000	\$0	\$2,125,000

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