

Issue Brief – IT Security and Licensing

NUMBER USHE-06

SUMMARY

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends funding to address security and licensing issues in USHE information technology. As our dependence on IT increases and privacy and security concerns grow, attention needs to be given to these functions. The Analyst recommends ongoing funding in the amount of \$1.8 million for licensing and security software. In addition, the Analyst recommends a one-time appropriation of \$1 million for IT equipment replacement.

OBJECTIVE

The USHE utilizes central purchasing, licensing, and management of major software systems in an effort to provide efficiencies and reduce overall costs.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The maintenance and licensing arrangements for some of the major software systems are managed through the Commissioner's Office. Central management and group purchasing of major software and hardware has a number of advantages:

- Cost savings generated from increase purchase discounts for volume purchases
- Standardization of software over the USHE for efficient transfer of data
- Facilitate reporting and warehousing of data

In addition, privacy and security has become a primary concern as federal laws require protection of student data.

To provide the necessary software licensing and security software, the Analyst recommends funding for FY 2007 in the amount of \$1,800,000 as shown in the following table.

USHE IT Security and Licensing Costs	
Administration Software (SCT and Peoplesoft)	\$300,000
Administration Database (Oracle)	200,000
Administration Operating System (Sun)	150,000
Networking (Novell, Microsoft)	150,000
Desktop Office Suite (Microsoft)	200,000
Antivirus / Intrusion Protection (McAfee)	300,000
Infrastructure (routers, servers, switches and hubs)	500,000
Total	<u><u>\$1,800,000</u></u>

Some of the current IT equipment is aging and is in need of replacement. New technology will replace obsolete equipment with faster and more efficient equipment. The recommended one-time funding level of \$1 million will be used to purchase routers, servers, switches, and hubs at the USHE campuses.