

Issue Brief – Enrollment Growth

MINIMUM SCHOOL PROGRAM

NUMBER MSP 1

SUMMARY

Providing increased revenue to support student enrollment growth has emerged as a major budgetary factor facing the Legislature each year. After a brief enrollment decline from 1998-2000, student enrollment in Utah's has accelerated. Recent history shows, and projections indicate, that student enrollment growth will increase 2.5 to 2.8 percent each year for the next 7-8 years. The chart to the right provides a 15 year history of Utah's fall enrollment with annual and percent change.

Currently (Fall 2006), Utah's public schools enroll 525,660 students, a 3.1 percent increase over the 2005-06 school year. Fall 2006 (FY 2007) enrollment growth represents the largest increase experienced in Utah since 1986. Projections for Fall 2007 (FY 2008) indicate that an additional 14,529 students will likely enroll in Utah's public schools, an increase of 2.8 percent over Fall 2006.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Each fall, school districts and charter schools conduct a student enrollment census. This census occurs on the on the first school day in October. Following the census, representatives from the Legislative Fiscal Analyst, Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and the Utah State Office of Education establish a projected enrollment for the next fall. This projection creates a base on which to estimate growth costs for the next school year. The USOE also uses these enrollment projections to estimate the total number of Weighted Pupil Units for the next school year.

Enrollment Growth Costs

In addition to the FY 2008 base budget, House Bill 3 'Minimum School Program Base Budget Amendments' (Last, B.) provides additional revenue to support projected Fall 2007 student enrollment growth costs. The MSP base budget bill includes an additional 21,026¹ WPUs to fund the projected 14,529 new students in FY 2008.

H.B. 3 contains a total of \$71.3 million to support increased student enrollment in FY 2008. The largest portion of this funding provides for WPU growth costs, a total of \$50.8 million. Due to the increased number of WPUs, an additional \$9.6 million was included to provide for additional Social Security and Retirement costs in the school districts and charter schools.

Fall Enrollment History			
1993 to 2007 Projected Fall Enrollment			
Year	Fall Enrollment	Annual Change	Percent Change
1993	468,675	***	***
1994	471,402	2,727	0.6%
1995	473,666	2,264	0.5%
1996	478,028	4,362	0.9%
1997	479,151	1,123	0.2%
1998	477,061	(2,090)	-0.4%
1999	475,974	(1,087)	-0.2%
2000	475,269	(705)	-0.1%
2001	477,801	2,532	0.5%
2002	481,143	3,342	0.7%
2003	486,938	5,795	1.2%
2004	495,682	8,744	1.8%
2005	510,012	14,330	2.9%
2006	525,660	15,648	3.1%
2007	540,189	14,529	2.8%

Source: USOE Finance and Statistics, Common Data Committee.

FY 2008 - Enrollment Growth Cost Estimates	
Based on Fall 2007 Enrollment Projections	
Program	Amount
1. Basic Program Growth	\$50,819,842
2. Social Security & Retirement	9,673,278
3. Other Below-the-Line Programs	5,363,118
4. Charter School Local Replacment	5,469,038
Total Growth Estimate:	\$71,325,276

¹ Includes an additional 150 WPUs in Special Education to cover unknown charter school growth, actual student count is pending. WPUs may change depending on actual student count.

Non-WPU Driven Programs (Below-the-Line)

In adopting FY 2008 base budgets, the Executive Appropriations Committee included sufficient revenue to provide a 2.8 percent increase to several non-WPU driven programs to account for student enrollment growth. The total cost of including these non-WPU driven programs is \$5.3 million. Additional funding was included for enrollment growth in the following programs: Pupil Transportation – To and From School, Quality Teaching Block Grant, Interventions for Student Success Block Grant, Youth at Risk Programs (includes: At-Risk Regular Program, Homeless and Minority, MESA, Gang Prevention, Youth in Custody), Adult Education, and Accelerated Learning Programs (includes: Gifted and Talented, Advanced Placement and Concurrent Enrollment).

Charter Schools

Finally, the MSP base budget includes an additional \$5.4 million to provide the Charter School Local Replacement funding to an additional 4,789 new charter school students. The FY 2007 local revenue replacement rate of \$1,142 per charter schools students was not changed.

LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Please refer to the Minimum School Program detail table (located behind Tab 4) for additional information on enrollment growth cost distribution and increased Weighted Pupil Units by program. Enrollment growth related items are included in House Bill 3 ‘Minimum School Program Base Budget Amendments’ (Last, B). H.B. 3 provides additional information on the distribution of enrollment growth costs among programs in the Minimum School Program.