
FY 2009 Issue Brief – HED – IT Software and Hardware

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SUMMARY

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends the Subcommittee prioritize funding to address increases in software costs in UCAT information technology. As our dependence on IT grows, ongoing support is essential to provide the necessary software support. The Analyst recommends the prioritization of \$400,000 in ongoing funding for software licensing. In addition, the Analyst recommends prioritizing \$330,500 (ongoing) and \$215,000 (one-time) 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

The software licensing is projected at \$400,000.

Much of the current IT equipment at the USHE institutions is aging and is in need of replacement. New technology will replace obsolete equipment with faster and more efficient equipment. The projected cost for the systematic replacement schedule for routers, servers, switches, and hubs for the UCAT campuses is \$330,500. One-time funding of \$215,000 will help jump start the replacement process.

