



Budget Brief: Science Outreach Program

PUBLIC EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

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 that each of the 40 school districts have the opportunity to receive services in a balanced and comprehensive manner over three years. Schools receive services through three programs: the Informal Science Education Enhancement (iSEE), a Request for Proposal (RFP) program, and a Science Enhancement program.

Program History

Science outreach programs in the public schools began in the 1970s when the Legislature provided revenue to the Hansen Planetarium (now Clark Planetarium) to conduct educational programs and demonstrations. During the 2006 General Session, the Legislature bifurcated the Fine Arts and Sciences program into two separate budgetary line-items, the Fine Arts Outreach program and the Science Outreach program. Each provides the same type of services in the schools (demonstrations, presentations & educational activities), but differ significantly in subject matter. Legislators determined that bifurcation would provide greater visibility to the specific needs of each program and allow the Legislature to focus appropriations to meet specific goals by content area.

Funding Match

Each participating organization matches state revenues appropriated for educational outreach programs. In FY 2006, private foundational support for education outreach programs in the sciences comprised 67 percent of program funding. State funding made up the remaining 33 percent.

Overview of Programs

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. These funding levels 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, the Utah Museum of Natural History, Red Butte Gardens, and Utah Science Center.

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.

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.

Funding

The following table details allocations, by participating organization, for the FY 2009 original appropriation (from the 2009 General Session). Action during the 2008 Special Session reduced the ongoing appropriation for the program by \$62,700. This reduction was back-filled with one-time funding for FY 2009. The ongoing impact will occur in the FY 2010 budget.

Action taken so far in the 2009 General Session has reduced the ongoing appropriation for the program by an additional \$156,700. Another one-time back-fill was provided in FY 2009 of \$75,700, making the net reduction in FY 2009 \$81,000. The total ongoing budget for the program will be reduced by \$219,400 in FY 2010, a decrease of 10.5 percent. Estimated base budget would be \$1,870,000 in FY 2010.

Science Outreach	
FY 2009 Allocations	
iSEE	
Clark Planetarium	530,100
Discovery Gateway	109,100
The Living Planet Aquarium	121,100
Red Butte Garden and Arboretum	161,100
Utah Museum of Natural History	338,000
Utah Science Center	220,000
Subtotal	\$1,479,400
Science Enhancement	430,000
RFP Program	
Four Corners School of Outdoor Education	30,000
Friends of Tracy Aviary	78,000
Hawk Watch International	23,400
John Hutchings Museum of Natural History	20,000
Utah Zoological Society (Utah's Hogle Zoo)	23,900
Unallocated	4,700
Subtotal	\$180,000
Total	\$2,089,400