



Performance Note
SB0144 - Carson Smith
Scholarship Amendments
Sponsor: Sen. Fillmore, Lincoln



Performance Note Report

Author: Natalie Grange

Agency: State Board of Education

Funding For:

Serving a New or Larger Population

Public Benefit:

Purpose: The Carson Smith scholarship program provides scholarships to students enrolled in private schools who would qualify for special education services if they were in public school. Each year the number of recipients has grown due to the addition of preschool students and new eligible schools without any increase in funding. This has caused the depletion of carry forward funds from previous years.

Services: The funding will provide scholarships to the 504 additional students that have been projected based on the history of growth in the program.

Expected Outcome: Increasing funding to provide for the new students will benefit the public by continuing to provide scholarships to students whose parents have placed them in a private school that they feel is best for their student's individual needs. Without the funding, parents may not be able to afford to place their student where they feel their student is best served.

Implementations and Resources: The scholarship program has been in place since 2005. The Utah State Board of Education has a system in place to administer the program. The system tracks applicants and scholarships to determine how many students are funded each year and which schools they attend.

How: The agency ensures that scholarship applications are complete and submitted on time. The agency then distributes scholarship funds and ensures that the money gets to the school where the student is enrolled to pay for their tuition. The agency also helps parents who are interested in the scholarship by answering questions and providing instructions for how to apply for the scholarship.

Performance Measures

Goal

Title: Applications processed quickly

Description: The specialist will process all complete applications within 10 days of receipt so that they can be included in the lottery process. This will ensure all students are included when the lottery is ran and all students have a chance to receive the scholarship.

Collection Method: Applications are dated as received and there is a date in the system for when they were entered. Applications will be entered as soon as they are received to ensure the 10 days do not pass before the application is processed.

Goal

Title: Payments are made to schools on time

Description: Checks are scheduled to be submitted to the private schools 4 times a year. The goal is that checks are received by the schools as scheduled so that parents are not having to pay for tuition while waiting on checks to arrive.

Collection Method: Checks are mailed overnighted to schools the day before they are due to arrive at schools. This can be easily tracked on the specialist's calendar.

Goal

Title: Eligible schools are in compliance

Description: 100% of eligible schools will complete a self-assessment each year verifying that they are in compliance with each requirement of the program. This will ensure that schools stay in compliance and can continue to receive the scholarship.

Collection Method: Self-assessments are sent to schools with the 2nd checks each year and due back by the first week of January. This allows the specialist time to review each review and identify any possible concerns that require assistance.