

Office of the
Legislative Fiscal Analyst

FY 2003 Budget Recommendations

Joint Appropriations Subcommittee for
Public Education

Utah State Office of Education
Public Education Contracts

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1.0 Public Education Contracts

Summary

The Utah State Board of Education, having the direct responsibility for students in state custody, contracts with various school districts to provide educational services at the Youth Center (State Hospital in Provo), and the State Prison (this includes the prisons in Draper, Gunnison, and Cedar City). The Provo, Jordan, South Sanpete and Iron school districts are the major recipients of contract funds.

The Analyst recommends \$3,928,300 for Education Contracts.

	Analyst FY 2003 Base	Analyst FY 2003 Changes	Analyst FY 2003 Total
Financing			
Uniform School Fund	3,928,300		3,928,300
Total	<u>\$3,928,300</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,928,300</u>
Programs			
Youth Center	1,160,200		1,160,200
Corrections Institutions	2,768,100		2,768,100
Total	<u>\$3,928,300</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$3,928,300</u>

2.0 Public Education Contracts

2.1 Potential Further Reductions

In response to the Governor's request for FY 2003 Hold-backs, the State Office of Education compiled a list of program reductions and position eliminations totaling \$2,168,500 in potential savings. The Legislature's FY 2002 Supplemental Action utilized some of these items, but, should the subcommittee require funds for other higher-priority items, the State Office's list included cuts of \$50,000 for Education Contracts.

The reduction could be met by reducing administrative expenses. It is not anticipated that such a reduction would result in a reduction in services to students in correctional institutions

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2.2 Education of Individuals in State Custody

The Analyst recommends that the Public Education Appropriations Subcommittee study issues relating to the education of people in state custody during the FY 2002 interim. Issues include the impact jail contracting through the Department of Corrections has on local school districts in providing educational services to inmates and if additional funding is needed to cover services; current allocation of Corrections Institutions funds and if these funds could be differently allocated to ensure the best services; Youth in Custody funding and programs; the possibility increasing the use of the Electronic High school in delivering these services and combining Youth in Custody and Corrections Institutions funding to serve all inmates through one funding stream.

3.0 Public Education Contracts

3.1 Youth Center

Recommendation

The Analyst recommends the base budget funding of \$1,160,200

The State Hospital provides specialized mental health services that are difficult to obtain in many communities. Beginning in FY 1986, the Legislature assigned the Utah State Board of Education the responsibility of providing an educational program to all school age children staying at the State Hospital Youth Center. The education services provided are very specialized. It is a self-contained school with a principal, counselors, psychologists, and other specialized instructors. The children have needs requiring frequent intervention. In addition, the school has complete responsibility for the children during the school day. The State Board of Education contracts with the Provo School District to provide the educational services.

	2001	2002	2003	Est/Analyst
Financing	Actual	Estimated	Analyst	Difference
Uniform School Fund	1,115,600	1,160,200	1,160,200	
Total	\$1,115,600	\$1,160,200	\$1,160,200	\$0
Expenditures				
Other Charges/Pass Thru	1,115,600	1,160,200	1,160,200	
Total	\$1,115,600	\$1,160,200	\$1,160,200	\$0

Performance Measures

There are two primary units at the youth center, a children’s unit and a adolescent unit. There are 24 beds available in the children’s unit, which is full most of the time. In the adolescent unit, there are 48 beds, of which 38 are currently filled. There are currently 60 students enrolled in the Youth Center.

Due to the nature of mental illness, a high adult to student ratio is required. There are currently 7 teachers at the Youth Center. In addition to general education the Youth Center provides related services the students may require, such as, interveners, speech/language pathologists, counselors, etc.

3.2 Corrections Institutions

Recommendation The Analyst recommends the base budget funding of \$2,768,100.

The recidivism reduction program used by the state is a nine-component program designed to enhance the education and job skills of inmates so they will be more likely be a positive addition to society when they are released from prison. The nine components of the program include: Inmate Assessment, Cognitive Problem Solving Skills, Basic Literacy Skills, Career Skills, Job Placement, Post Release Support, Research and Evaluation, Family Involvement, and Multi-agency Collaboration.

	2001	2002	2003	Est/Analyst
	Actual	Estimated	Analyst	Difference
Financing				
Uniform School Fund	2,661,600	2,768,100	2,768,100	
Beginning Nonlapsing	4,300	9,000		(9,000)
Closing Nonlapsing	(9,000)			
Total	<u>\$2,656,900</u>	<u>\$2,777,100</u>	<u>\$2,768,100</u>	<u>(\$9,000)</u>
Expenditures				
Current Expense	12,300	12,300	12,300	
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2,644,600	2,764,800	2,755,800	(9,000)
Total	<u>\$2,656,900</u>	<u>\$2,777,100</u>	<u>\$2,768,100</u>	<u>(\$9,000)</u>

Performance Measures

Programs are administered through local school districts, applied technology centers, colleges, and universities that have correctional facilities within their boundaries. In addition to traditional education strategies, e.g., testing/assessment, basic literacy, ESL, high school completion/GED, occupational training, etc., further emphasis is placed on cognitive restructuring and transition assistance.

During the past year, over 4,000 offenders received educational services at the three state prison sites and twenty-two county jails. In total 587 GED Certificates were completed, 392 High School Diplomas were received, 54 Vocational Certificates, 21 Associates Degrees and 8 Bachelors Degrees were earned through the program.

Statutory Provisions

The current statutes governing corrections education are as follows:

53A-1-403.5 (Repealed 07/01/07). Education of persons in custody of Department of Corrections -- Contracting for services -- Recidivism reduction plan -- Collaboration among state agencies -- Annual report.

(1) The State Board of Education and the State Board of Regents, subject to legislative appropriation, are responsible for the education of persons in the custody of the Department of Corrections.

(2) In order to fulfill this responsibility, the boards shall, where feasible, contract with appropriate private or public agencies to provide educational and related administrative services.

(3) (a) As its corrections education program, the boards shall develop and implement a recidivism reduction plan, including the following components:

- (i) inmate assessment;
- (ii) cognitive problem-solving skills;
- (iii) basic literacy skills;
- (iv) career skills;
- (v) job placement;
- (vi) postrelease tracking and support;
- (vii) research and evaluation;
- (viii) family involvement and support; and
- (ix) multiagency collaboration.

(b) The plan shall be developed and implemented through the State Office of Education and the Board of Regents office in collaboration with the following entities:

- (i) local boards of education;
- (ii) Department of Corrections;
- (iii) Department of Workforce Services;
- (iv) Department of Human Services;
- (v) Board of Pardons and Parole;
- (vi) State Office of Rehabilitation; and
- (vii) the governor's office.

(c) The Legislature may provide appropriations for implementation of the plan through a line item appropriation to any one or a combination of the entities listed in Subsection (3)(b).

(4) The boards shall make annual reports to the Legislature through the Education Interim Committee on the effectiveness of the recidivism reduction plan.

Amended by Chapter 375, 1997 General Session
Amended by Chapter 26, 1997 General Session

4.0 Additional Information: Public Education Contracts

4.1 Funding History

	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Financing	Actual	Actual	Actual	Estimated	Analyst
Uniform School Fund	4,435,900	4,654,800	4,333,800	3,928,300	3,928,300
Beginning Nonlapsing			4,300	9,000	
Closing Nonlapsing		(4,300)	(9,000)		
Total	\$4,435,900	\$4,650,500	\$4,329,100	\$3,937,300	\$3,928,300
Programs					
State Developmental Center	997,900	1,022,800	556,600		
Youth Center	1,046,600	1,072,800	1,115,600	1,160,200	1,160,200
Corrections Institutions	2,391,400	2,554,900	2,656,900	2,777,100	2,768,100
Total	\$4,435,900	\$4,650,500	\$4,329,100	\$3,937,300	\$3,928,300
Expenditures					
Current Expense	17,000	12,700	12,300	12,300	12,300
Other Charges/Pass Thru	4,418,900	4,637,800	4,316,800	3,925,000	3,916,000
Total	\$4,435,900	\$4,650,500	\$4,329,100	\$3,937,300	\$3,928,300