

**TEACHER STANDARDS & PRACTICES COMMISSION**

The 17 member Teacher Standards & Practices Commission’s (TSPC) mission is to “establish, uphold, and enforce professional standards of excellence...” for teachers, administrators, school counselors, and school psychologists. This involves setting standards, licensing, and taking disciplinary action when required. The Commission also maintains a registry of charter school teachers and certifies school nurses. There are over 62,000 active licenses. The Commission also adopts standards and approves post-secondary programs that lead to licensure of teachers in the state.

TEACHERS STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION	2009-11 Actuals	2011-13 Leg. Approved	2013-15 Current Service Level	2013-15 Governor's Budget	2013-15 Co-Chairs' Budget (1.0)	% Change 2011-13 LAB to 2013-15 CSL
Other Funds	5,311,522	5,444,612	5,442,725	4,951,441	0	0.0%
Federal Funds	-	85,455	35,000	35,000	0	-59.0%
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>\$5,311,522.0</b>	<b>\$5,530,067.0</b>	<b>\$5,477,725.0</b>	<b>4,986,441.00</b>	<b>\$0.0</b>	<b>-0.9%</b>
Positions	25	24	22	20	0	-8.3%
FTE	25.00	24.00	22.00	19.25	0.00	-8.3%

Major Revenues	Budget Environment	Comparison by Fund Type																								
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Commission has two major revenue sources. First, there are a series of license fees for educators including teachers, administrators, school counselors, school nurses, and other professionals. These license fees are generally \$100 for periods of three to five years depending on when the individual was initially licensed.</li> <li>The second major source of revenues is fees for fingerprint checks. These are approximately \$60 and the revenues are generally dedicated for this activity to cover both state and federal fingerprint related costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are over 62,000 professionals licensed by the Commission with teachers representing roughly 90% of these licensees. For comparison, there are roughly 30,000 working teachers in Oregon public schools.</li> <li>Revenues for the Commission are falling as fewer teachers and other education professionals are applying for licenses or renewing existing licenses.</li> <li>The Commission has had to reduce staff and spending to stay within anticipated revenues for 2011-13. It is expected that this trend will continue into 2013-15.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TEACHERS STANDARDS AND PRACTICES COMMISSION</b></p> <table border="1"> <caption>Revenue Data (Millions of Dollars)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>General Fund/Lottery</th> <th>Other Funds</th> <th>Federal Funds</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2009-11</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$5.3</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2011-13</td> <td>\$0.09</td> <td>\$5.4</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-15 CSL</td> <td>\$0.04</td> <td>\$5.4</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-15 GB</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$5.0</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2013-15</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> <td>\$0.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	General Fund/Lottery	Other Funds	Federal Funds	2009-11	\$0.00	\$5.3	\$0.00	2011-13	\$0.09	\$5.4	\$0.00	2013-15 CSL	\$0.04	\$5.4	\$0.00	2013-15 GB	\$0.00	\$5.0	\$0.00	2013-15	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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**MAJOR CHALLENGES AND DECISION POINTS**

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the spring of 2012, the Commission’s staff realized that the agency’s revenues were significantly falling from what had been projected. Actual license and related revenues for 2009-11 was \$5.1 million and the 2011-13 budget was developed based on projected revenues of \$5.2 million. The latest projection demonstrates anticipated license revenues for 2011-13 of just over \$4.5 million. The fall-off in revenues is likely based on a number of factors including teachers being laid off, fewer new teachers graduating from post-secondary programs, and fewer teachers who are no longer teaching or retired maintaining their licenses. Applications received by the Commission have dropped from over 27,750 in 2009-10 to just over 22,600 for 2011-12.</li> <li>2. The Commission has also used its fund balance to partially make-up the difference between revenues and spending. In 2009-11, the beginning balance or reserves was \$1.5 million Other Funds, while the current estimate of the beginning balance for 2013-15 is \$850,000. This represents about 3.75 months of expenditures.</li> <li>3. As a result of the declining revenues, the Commission has either left positions vacant or decided to eliminate positions. For 2013-15, the budget includes a package (070) to eliminate two positions – the Director of Licensure and an Intake Clerk – both of which were laid off in July 2012. The same package assumes the reduction in the FTE of another Intake Clerk. The Commission also has left other positions vacant to curb spending.</li> <li>4. The Commission is at its statutory fee limit of \$100 for the basic teachers’ license. Besides the fingerprint check fee which is dedicated to that specific activity, the only other revenue source is the license fees. This fee not only supports the licensing functions of the Commission, but also the professional practices (investigations and sanctions) and the activities around approving post-secondary teacher preparation programs (schools of education). Without a General Fund appropriation, a fee increase is the only likely way to increase revenues in the short-term.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. The Commission hired two limited duration investigative staff to keep pace with the caseload of complaints. While the number of new cases has grown some over time, it has been primarily driven by complaints brought forward by the public instead of those brought forward by school districts. The number of pending cases each quarter has varied but has shown an upward trend over time.</li> <li>6. The time to process applications for licenses is roughly four weeks although it is longer near the beginning of the school year. Even though the Commission staff in this area has been reduced, there has also been a decrease in the number of applications.</li> <li>7. The Commission’s information management data system is reaching the end of its lifespan and the underlying software cannot be updated. The system has periodic “glitches” which means staff have to do “work-arounds” to maintain data integrity. Commission staff has initially explored options; but because of the current revenue problems, have not been able to pursue a replacement system. The Department of Administrative Services is assisting the Commission in identifying viable options.</li> <li>8. The Secretary of State is currently preparing an audit on teacher preparation and will likely have audit findings relating to the Commission. The audit is scheduled for release sometime in the first half of 2013.</li> </ol> |
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