

Chief Education Office

	2013-15 Actual	2015-17 Legislatively Approved*	2017-19 Current Service Level	2017-19 Governor's Recommended
General Fund	20,421,275	13,360,803	9,982,404	11,443,979
Total Funds	\$20,421,275	\$13,360,803	\$9,982,404	11,443,979
Positions	15	20	19	21
FTE	15.00	18.25	18.50	20.50

*Includes Emergency Board and administrative actions through December 2016.

Program Description

In 2015, the Legislature passed SB 215 which eliminated the Oregon Education Investment Board(OEIB), but retained the OEIB staff (including the Chief Education Officer). This new Chief Education Office (CEdO) is responsible for coordinating and collaborating with education stakeholders to establish a unified and seamless public education system that ensures students reach the state’s educational goals. The sunset date for the new Chief Education Office is June 30, 2019. The Chief Education Officer is appointed by the Governor and has direction and control over the education agency/division heads (Oregon Department of Education (ODE), the heads of the Early Learning and Youth Development Divisions of ODE, the Higher Education Coordinating Commission (HECC), and the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission) in matters related to the design and organization of multi-agency planning. The Office is taking the lead and has dedicated staff for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) related issues, accelerated learning, educator’s professional development, and education system-wide research, including the development of a Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

The funding of the Office and its predecessor has changed since its creation as seen in the table above. The primary reason for the difference between 2013-15 and 2015-17 is that a large portion of the Engineering Technology Industry Council (ETIC) funding was transferred into the agency in 2013-15 and then transferred out in 2015-17. The major change between the 2015-17 Legislatively Adopted Budget and the Legislatively Approved Budget was the addition of funding for the development of the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) (\$5.5 million) and one-time funding for transitional services and support programs from high school to college and for an Absentee pilot program. A portion of the SLDS funding is phased-out for 2017-19.

CSL Summary and Issues

- The 2017-19 CSL for the CEdO includes the phase-in and phase-out of positions reflecting the actions in developing the 2015-17 budget and the passage of SB 215. It also reflects the phase-out of one-time funding included in the 2015-17 budget including SLDS bridge and development/implementation funding (\$2.6 million GF), an absentee pilot program (\$0.5 million GF) and funding relating to services for students transitioning from high school to post-secondary institutions (\$1.0 million GF). In addition, the differential for the Chief Education Officer is eliminated (\$0.2 million GF).

Policy Issues

- The CEEdO is scheduled to sunset at the end of the 2017-19 biennium so there will need to be reauthorization of the Office prior to that if the decision is to keep it operational in the long term. There are alternative structures than the current model for the coordination and directional functions performed by the staff of the CEEdO including a smaller staff in the Governor's Office.
- The CEEdO's predecessor, the OEIB, was initially designed to be a policy making entity with accountability and coordination functions. Overtime, OEIB and now the CEEdO have taken on more operational and similar functions that may be more appropriately placed in ODE or HECC.
- The Chief Education Office continues to take the lead in the development of a state-wide longitudinal data system to provide a research tool and data source to measure the effectiveness of various educational investments, as well as measure progress of students and the overall education system. The intent is to have the data system include information on students/programs from pre-early learning through college/post-secondary, and to tie student information with employment related data in order to measure outcomes. Funding is included in the 2017-19 CSL for the operation of the system when completed. The project is running behind the schedule partially due to data sharing disagreements between agencies so funding requirements between 2015-17 and 2017-19 will need to be reconciled.

Other Significant Issues and Background

- Currently a single person is filling the Chief Education Officer and the Governor's Education Policy Advisor. For 2015-17 there is funding assumed in both the CEEdO and the Governor's Office budgets for this person.
- The Governor's budget includes reclasses upward of six existing positions (two research analysts, the Education Innovation Officer, and three SLDS project positions) as well as establishing two positions for coordinating regional cross-sector work and for the SLDS project. \$200,000 is also provided for additional resources for contract research and for the dues to the Education Commission for the States. Reductions were made in the funding for initiatives relating to Regional Area Collaborations and a Reading Initiative. New funding is proposed for a new scholarship program for culturally or linguistically diverse teacher candidates and bringing together K-12 districts and post-secondary institutions around professional development. It would seem more appropriate if the scholarship program was administered by the Office of Student Access and Completion (OSAC) under HECC who already administer various financial assistance programs for post-secondary students.