

LAO Recommendations for Preserving K-14 Outreach Services

LEGISLATIVE ANALYST'S OFFICE

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K-14 Outreach Budget Summary

(In Millions)

	2003-04		2004-05
	Budget Act	Revised Budget	Proposed Budget
General Fund (Non-Proposition 98)			
University of California	\$31.9	\$19.7	—
California State University	52.0	39.5	—
State Department of Education	10.3	10.3	\$10.3
Subtotals	(\$94.2)	(\$69.5)	(\$10.3)
General Fund (Proposition 98)			
California Community Colleges	\$44.2	\$44.2	\$43.2
State Department of Education	6.5	6.5	1.5
Subtotals	(\$50.7)	(\$50.7)	(\$44.7)
Federal and Other Funds			
University of California	\$43.8	\$43.8	\$43.8
California State University	25.2	25.2	19.5
Student Aid Commission	15.7	15.7	15.7
State Department of Education	3.7	3.7	3.7
Subtotals	(\$88.4)	(\$88.4)	(\$82.7)
Totals	\$233.3	\$208.7	\$137.7



LAO Principles for Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Outreach

Address Specific Needs of K-12 Students

- Insufficient academic preparation among K-12 students should be the primary target of outreach.
- K-12 schools are in the best position to assess and address the academic counseling needs of their students.
- Schools should have the flexibility to use outreach funds and design programs in ways that allow them to more efficiently and effectively meet their students' needs.

Ensure Accountability

- Outreach programs should have specific goals and well-formulated objectives that directly link to particular types of services.
- Program performance should be measured and compared to expected outcomes.

Focus Resources Where They Are Most Needed

- A statewide inventory of outreach programs found that many schools with low college participation rates do not receive adequate outreach services. In contrast, some schools with very high college participation rates have many outreach programs available to their students.
- These inequities partly exist because schools far from a university campus tend to have less access to outreach services.
- Outreach programs should instead be focused on schools with low college participation rates.

Minimize Program Duplication

- Many outreach programs have overlapping goals and services. Similar programs should be consolidated in order to create greater efficiencies and effectiveness in the state's outreach efforts.



LAO Alternative Proposal to Provide Well-Targeted Outreach Services



Establish College Preparation Block Grant For K-12 School Districts

- Based on our guiding principles for improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the state's outreach programs, we recommend creating a College Preparation Block Grant for K-12 school districts with very low college participation rates.
- The block grant would leverage districts' knowledge of their students' needs to determine the best mix of outreach interventions. Schools could use these funds to implement their own programs, or contract with the University of California (UC), the California State University (CSU), an independent college, or whichever provider can best meet their local needs.
- Schools would be accountable for the use of their block grant funding.



Preserve Selected UC and CSU Outreach Programs

- We believe that certain existing outreach programs are best administered by UC and CSU. Therefore, we recommend the Legislature preserve several selected outreach programs at UC and CSU.
- Specifically, we recommend preserving (1) UC's ASSIST program and academic enrichment services for potential graduate and professional school students and (2) CSU's Early Assessment Program. In our *Analysis of the 2004-05 Budget Bill*, we identify potential funding sources for these programs.



Major Features of Proposed College Preparation Block Grant



Focuses Responsibility at K-12 Schools

- Our approach to outreach recognizes that the academic barriers to higher education vary from individual to individual and school to school, and that local schools are in the best position to select and administer programs for their students.
- Schools would be expected to achieve measurable improvement in the college participation rates of their students.



Prioritizes Schools With Low College Participation Rates

- Unlike the current outreach structure, our proposed block grant is designed to ensure that limited resources are in fact used to serve students most in need of additional assistance.
- Funds would be targeted at schools with low college participation rates.



Reduces Administrative Complexity

- The existence of so many different outreach programs makes it difficult for local schools to keep track of available services. Moreover, many existing outreach programs have overlapping goals and services.
- Our proposal essentially consolidates most outreach programs into a block grant. We believe this would create greater efficiencies and effectiveness in the state's outreach efforts.



Focuses on Preparing Students for Any College

- The goal of some outreach programs is to increase the number of disadvantaged students eligible for admission at particular systems (such as UC and CSU).
- Our block grant proposal recognizes that outreach should prepare students for higher education more generally. Student opportunities for postsecondary education should be as broad as possible.