

**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
FY 2009-10 JOINT BUDGET COMMITTEE HEARING AGENDA**

**Monday, December 15, 2008  
9:00 pm – 12:00 noon**

***STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION / DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION***

**9:00-9:30 INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS**

**9:30-9:45 QUESTIONS COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS**

1. What are your department's three top goals for the current year? How will they be achieved?
2. How do your requested decision items tie to your goals?
3. If you have submitted a General Fund decision item, justify why it must be funded in FY 2009-10 and why it cannot be postponed until FY 2010-11.
4. Could your department shift to a four day work week that begins on Wednesday and ends on Saturday? If not, why not? If only a portion of the department can go to a four day week, what portion can and what portion cannot and why?
5. Has your department been able to fill new or vacant positions? Can your department quantify the benefits it has seen as a result of adding additional FTE or filling vacant positions?
6. What is the status of your department's implementation of S.B.08-155, Centralize IT Management in OIT? Is your department experiencing any difficulties?
7. How many employees, especially among upper management, are assigned a state vehicle for them to use to travel between home and work? How many state vehicles does your department use to transport staff? Would it be more cost effective to reimburse employees for using their personal vehicles for these purposes?

**9:45-10:00 OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

8. Is the State Board of Education going to exceed its FY 2008-09 appropriation? What is the justification for the needed supplemental appropriation? How did the State Board of Education determine its cost-avoidance measures? How will the State Board of Education be affected if the supplemental request is not sought or is rejected?
9. For whom do the State Board of Education's dues to CLASS provide membership?

**10:00-10:10 ON-LINE LEARNING**

10. Please provide data concerning on-line students based on the October 2008 student count. Specifically, please identify the following:
- a. The number of on-line students (FTE) eligible for funding in the current fiscal year, and the associated total program funding.
  - b. The number of on-line students eligible for funding in the current fiscal year who would not have been eligible for funding in previous fiscal years, and the associated total program funding (i.e., the fiscal impact of provisions in S.B. 07-215 which removed enrollment requirements).
  - c. For on-line students who attended public school in FY 2007-08, the district of attendance in FY 2007-08 and the on-line program of attendance in FY 2008-09.
11. Is continued oversight by the On-line Learning Advisory Board warranted, or should this board be repealed?

**10:10-10:30 CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS**

12. Please describe your proposal for allocating the required increase in state funding among categorical programs (see Appendix E of the JBC staff briefing document).
13. Please describe the statutory formula for reimbursing school districts for public school transportation costs. Further, please discuss trends in terms of transportation costs incurred by school districts (i.e., are costs mainly being driven by increased fuel costs?).

**10:30-10:50 IMPLEMENTING H.B. 08-1335 (BUILDING EXCELLENT SCHOOLS TODAY)**

14. Please provide a status update on the implementation of this legislation.
15. When does the Department anticipate that the financial assistance priority assessment will be completed? Does the Department anticipate making funding available to districts prior to the completion of this assessment?

**10:50-11:10 CONDUCTING STUDIES VIA CONTRACTS**

16. [Background Information: The General Assembly, through legislation last Session, directed the Department to contract for two studies. First, H.B. 08-1388 required the Department to contract with a private person or entity to conduct a study concerning school districts experiencing declining pupil enrollment (see Section 22-54-132, C.R.S.). Second, H.B. 08-1335 required the Department to conduct or contract for a financial assistance priority assessment of public school facilities throughout the state (see Section 22-43.7-108, C.R.S.).]

- a. Please describe the process required to contract for a study, such as those referenced above.
- b. Please identify delays experienced by the Department in contracting for the two studies referenced above, and any suggested recommended actions the General Assembly should consider taking to simplify or streamline this process.

**11:10-11:20 IMPLEMENTING H.B. 08-1344**

17. Please explain why there has been no request for supplemental funding for the implementation of H.B. 08-1344.
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**11:20-11:40 COLORADO SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND (CSDB)**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS**

**QUESTIONS COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS**

1. What are CSDB's three top goals for the current year? How will they be achieved?
2. How do your requested decision items tie to your goals?
3. If you have submitted a General Fund decision item, justify why it must be funded in FY 2009-10 and why it cannot be postponed until FY 2010-11.
4. Could the CSDB shift to a four day work week that begins on Wednesday and ends on Saturday? If not, why not? If only a portion of the CSDB can go to a four day week, what portion can and what portion cannot and why?
5. Has the CSDB been able to fill new or vacant positions? Can the CSDB quantify the benefits it has seen as a result of adding additional FTE or filling vacant positions?
6. If applicable, what is the status of the CSDB's implementation of S.B.08-155, Centralize IT Management in OIT? Is the CSDB experiencing any difficulties?
7. How many employees, especially among upper management, are assigned a state vehicle for them to use to travel between home and work? How many state vehicles does the CSDB use to transport staff? Would it be more cost effective to reimburse employees for using their personal vehicles for these purposes?

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**11:40-12:00 STATE CHARTER SCHOOL INSTITUTE**

**INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING COMMENTS**

**QUESTIONS COMMON TO ALL DEPARTMENTS**

1. What are the Institute's three top goals for the current year? How will they be achieved?
2. How do your requested decision items tie to your goals?
3. If you have submitted a General Fund decision item, justify why it must be funded in FY 2009-10 and why it cannot be postponed until FY 2010-11.
4. Could the Institute shift to a four day work week that begins on Wednesday and ends on Saturday? If not, why not? If only a portion of the Institute can go to a four day week, what portion can and what portion cannot and why?
5. Has the Institute been able to fill new or vacant positions? Can the Institute quantify the benefits it has seen as a result of adding additional FTE or filling vacant positions?
6. What is the status of the Institute's implementation of S.B.08-155, Centralize IT Management in OIT? Is your department experiencing any difficulties?
7. How many employees, especially among upper management, are assigned a state vehicle for them to use to travel between home and work? How many state vehicles does the Institute use to transport staff? Would it be more cost effective to reimburse employees for using their personal vehicles for these purposes?

**DECISION ITEM #8 (ADJUST 2.0 FTE FROM DEPARTMENT TO CSI ADMINISTRATIVE)**

8. [Sen. Keller] Is this request a reflection of the intent of the original legislation (H.B. 04-1362) that the Department would assist with various administrative duties but that once the Institute matured, funding and FTE associated with this support would be transferred to the Institute?