

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
 JOINT APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
 January 17 – 20, 2005

PRESENT LAW REQUESTS (PROGRAM 06)

**FUNDING FOR SURPLUS COMPUTERS FOR SCHOOL**

	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>
DP12 Surplus Computers for Schools - General Fund	\$45,786	\$45,786
Martz Budget and Schweitzer Budget approved	<u>\$38,822</u>	<u>\$33,808</u>
Difference	\$ 6,964	\$11,978
½ of rent		\$11,400

This is "Decision Package 12 – Provide Funding for Surplus Computers for Schools," on page E-8.

The Governor's Budget includes an increase of \$38,822 in FY 2006 and \$33,808 in FY2007 for the Surplus Computers Program. The State Superintendent requests \$45,786 each year to cover a full year of rent rather than the half-year included in the base year budget.

The Surplus Computers Program allows OPI to distribute used computer equipment donated by State agencies to be used by Montana's K-12 public schools. OPI started the program with existing staff and resources after it was authorized by the 1999 Legislature (18-6-101, MCA). OPI picks up equipment that can no longer be used by agencies, performs checks to ensure computers are completely cleaned of stored memory and in good working condition, tracks and stores the equipment, and matches equipment to the schools that need them. Because of huge growth in the program, the existing 0.25 FTE is not enough to manage the workload. OPI's funding request will pay for an increase from the existing 0.25 FTE to a 0.50 FTE. The funding will also provide storage space, supplies, phone and internet service to the storage facility. To haul computers from a State agency to the storage facility, funding is needed to operate and maintain an older model truck. In order to keep up with the increasing workload, temporary help was hired and additional storage space was rented during the 2005 biennium using vacancy savings and carry-over funds. If this valuable program is to continue, OPI needs adequate and on-going funding to support it. Since this program began OPI has placed approximately 7000 used computing devices, including modems, monitors, computers, and fax machines, in Montana schools. Funding this proposal will ensure that Montana's K-12 classrooms continue to receive surplus computer equipment from state and federal agencies free of charge.

The Governor's budget includes only half of the rent for the storage/office space. The State Superintendent's request includes a full year of rent for the facility, since carry-over and vacancy savings moneys used for rent in FY 2005 will not be available.