

Proposed (Unified Budget) Budget

The following table summarizes the executive proposal by agency and funding source.

Unified Budget	Base Fiscal 2012	Approp. Fiscal 2013	Exec. Request Fiscal 2014	Exec. Request Fiscal 2015	Biennium Fiscal 12-13	Biennium Fiscal 14-15	Biennium \$ Change	Biennium % Change
Full Time Equivalents (FTE)	442.1	442.1	448.6	448.6	442.1	448.6	6.5	1.5%
3501 - Office of Public Instruction	\$791,215,573	\$813,179,041	\$878,419,865	\$901,340,315	\$1,604,394,614	\$1,779,760,180	\$175,365,566	10.9%
5101 - Board of Public Education	\$395,849	\$410,355	\$377,130	\$361,123	\$806,204	\$738,253	(\$67,951)	-8.4%
5102 - Commissioner of Higher Education	\$246,992,055	\$268,810,401	\$273,780,029	\$275,603,126	\$515,802,456	\$549,383,155	\$33,580,699	6.5%
5113 - School for the Deaf & Blind	\$6,275,364	\$6,322,307	\$6,569,807	\$6,519,134	\$12,597,671	\$13,088,941	\$491,270	3.9%
5114 - Montana Arts Council	\$1,302,968	\$1,608,655	\$1,495,663	\$1,468,890	\$2,911,623	\$2,964,553	\$52,930	1.8%
5115 - Montana Library Commission	\$4,448,581	\$4,445,993	\$6,327,475	\$5,175,111	\$8,894,574	\$11,502,586	\$2,608,012	29.3%
5117 - Montana Historical Society	\$4,679,320	\$5,072,675	\$5,512,215	\$5,209,228	\$9,751,995	\$10,721,443	\$969,448	9.9%
Total Proposed Budget by Agency	\$1,055,309,710	\$1,099,849,427	\$1,172,482,184	\$1,195,676,927	\$2,155,159,137	\$2,368,159,111	\$212,999,974	9.9%
01000 General Fund	\$814,397,143	\$837,213,421	\$903,839,560	\$926,148,773	\$1,651,610,564	\$1,829,988,333	\$178,377,769	10.8%
02000 State Special Revenue Funds	\$31,383,051	\$32,869,590	\$33,221,272	\$33,723,688	\$64,252,641	\$66,944,960	\$2,692,319	4.2%
03000 Federal Special Revenue Funds	\$208,906,724	\$228,881,921	\$234,742,372	\$235,125,479	\$437,788,645	\$469,867,851	\$32,079,206	7.3%
Other	\$622,792	\$884,495	\$678,980	\$678,987	\$1,507,287	\$1,357,967	(\$149,320)	-9.9%
Total Proposed Funding	\$1,055,309,710	\$1,099,849,427	\$1,172,482,184	\$1,195,676,927	\$2,155,159,137	\$2,368,159,111	\$212,999,974	9.9%

Agency Description

The fourteen-member Board of Education (BOE), under authority of Article X, Section 9 of the Montana Constitution, is composed of the Board of Regents of Higher Education (BOR) and the Board of Public Education (BOPE). It is responsible for long-range planning, and for coordinating and evaluating policies and programs for the state's educational systems. The Board of Education is constitutionally required to submit a unified budget request for the state's education system.

Agency Discussion

By statute, the Board of Education is to review and unify the budget requests of the following educational entities:

- Commissioner of Higher Education
- Board of Public Education
- Office of Public Instruction
- Montana School for the Deaf and Blind
- Montana Library Commission
- Montana Arts Council
- Montana Historical Society

The unified budget request is then submitted to the Office of Budget and Program Planning by the state agencies for inclusion in the Governor's executive budget. The drafters of the constitution included the unified budget submittal so that the funding allocations to the various components of the educational system were "threshed out together, so that when the legislature was asked for an amount there would have been some agreement reached between all phases of education." A unified budget request allows the BOE to determine the total amount of the biennial budget request for the educational system and the amount of the total that they would recommend allocating to each portion of the budget. BOE can prioritize the long range policies for the educational system within the budget. In periods of scarce resources, a unified budget request allows the BOE to determine which programs will be reduced, increased, or postponed until additional resources are available. It also allows BOE to review the various programs and requests for additional funding in the education system as a whole and further its related policies by reflecting them in the budgets requested by the agencies.

Biennial Changes in the Proposed Unified Budget

The proposed unified budget request totals \$2.4 billion for the 2015 biennium. The request is \$213.0 million higher than the 2013 biennium. The general fund supports 77.3% of the unified budget in the 2015 biennium. State special revenue accounts for 2.8%, federal funds provide 19.8% and other funds provide 0.1%. Key issues driving the budget are the following:

- Increase in the distribution to schools program \$175.3 million, \$140.9 million of general funds and \$34.4 million in federal funds
- Increase in total funds to the Montana University System of \$33.6 million
- Increase in 3.5 FTE for the Montana Library Commission

Below is the general fund increase of \$178.4 million (10.8%) by agency (relative increase in parenthesis):

- Office of Public Instruction \$142.1 million (11.2%)
- Commissioner of Higher Education \$34.2 million (6.5%)
- School for the Deaf and Blind \$0.5 million (4.4%)
- Montana Historical Society \$0.87 million (15.1%)
- Montana Library Commission \$0.54 million (10.5%)
- Montana Arts Council \$0.25 million (27.5%)
- Board of Public Education -\$0.04 million (-8.2%)