

- GRF funding increases 2.5% in FY 2002 and by 4.4% in FY 2003
- 7.2% decrease in federal funding (Title VI) in FY 2002, and a 0.3% increase in FY 2003

Ohio State School for the Blind

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ROLE

The Ohio State School for the Blind, located in Columbus, is a state-supported residential educational facility that provides services to Ohio's school-aged children with visual impairments, including those with multiple disabilities. Established in 1837, the Ohio State School for the Blind was the first state-supported residential school for the blind in the United States.

The school's goal is to enable its students to become self-sufficient and contributing members of society. Accordingly, it is dedicated to the intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth of its students. The school offers a variety of academic and pre-vocational programs.

Enrollment at the school is approximately 122 students, aged 5 to 22, per year. Roughly 60 percent of the students live at the school Monday through Friday of each week. The remaining students commute to the school daily. Students are referred to the school by their home districts. Over any given four-year period the school will experience a 75 percent turnover, as students are able to get a good foundation and return to their home districts.

The educational program provides instruction and support services to students with wide ranges of ability levels and achievements. Of the total enrollment, approximately 50 percent of the students have a secondary disability that impacts the teaching and learning process. The elementary and high school programs must meet the standards established by the Ohio Department of Education, with whom the school is accredited. The school also maintains additional accreditation with the National Accreditation Council for Agencies Serving the Blind and Visually Handicapped.

Agency In Brief					
Number of Employees	Total Appropriations-All Funds		GRF Appropriations		Appropriation Bill(s)
	2002	2003	2002	2003	
137	\$8.2 million	\$8.5 million	\$6.7 million	\$7.0 million	Am. Sub. H.B. 94


OVERVIEW

The overall budget provides \$8,191,570 in FY 2002 (a 0.8 percent increase) and \$8,496,151 in FY 2003 (a 3.7 percent increase). Funding originating from the General Revenue Fund (GRF) increased by 2.5 and 4.4 percent in FY 2002 and 2003 respectively. The budget for the upcoming biennium will enable the school to maintain its current level of service. The final budget numbers do not differ from the original executive budget request.

The school receives federal funding from two sources, the main source being Title VI-B discretionary funds. These funds are found in line item 226-626, Coordinating Unit. Approximately 95 percent of dollars received from this program are used for salaries. In FY 2003 this funding will increase slightly by 0.3 percent. These funds are used for the multi-handicapped students (24 staff positions serving a maximum 48 students). Without the Title VI-B federal funds or an alternative source, the multi-handicapped students would have to be returned to their school districts.

The school also receives federal funding through the reimbursement of services provided to Medicaid-eligible students. The amount the school receives varies based on the number of Medicaid-eligible students who are enrolled. There are no expected changes to the amount of this funding in the current biennium.

Maintenance spending decreases by 2.0 percent in FY 2002 and increases by 2.5 percent in FY 2003. Funding has been a problem on this line item (GRF 226-200) because of the increased utility costs during the first part of 2001. A chronically leaking roof and food costs have also been a drain on funding.

Funding for equipment was \$129,288 in FY 2002 (a 7.9 percent decrease) and \$142,770 in FY 2003 (a 2.5 percent increase). Equipment funding goes towards upgrading computer software and buying food service items. Graduates of the School for the Blind typically find jobs in the food service sector, so training is provided on site. With the current levels of funding, it seems unlikely that software and hardware programs will be upgraded and new food service equipment will be purchased. 

FY 2002 - 2003 Final Appropriation Amounts

All Fund Groups

<i>Line Item Detail by Agency</i>			<i>FY 1999:</i>	<i>FY 2000:</i>	<i>FY 2001:</i>	<i>FY 2002 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2001 to 2002:</i>	<i>FY 2003 Appropriations:</i>	<i>% Change 2002 to 2003:</i>
Report For: Main Operating Appropriations Bill			Version: Enacted						
OSB School for the Blind, Ohio State									
GRF	226-100	Personal Services	\$ 4,921,460	\$ 5,483,398	\$5,478,595	\$ 5,880,065	7.33%	\$ 6,157,563	4.72%
GRF	226-200	Maintenance	\$ 718,597	\$ 744,596	\$887,066	\$ 700,437	-21.04%	\$ 717,948	2.50%
GRF	226-300	Equipment	\$ 173,423	\$ 57,312	\$76,115	\$ 139,288	83.00%	\$ 142,770	2.50%
General Revenue Fund Total			\$ 5,813,480	\$ 6,285,306	\$ 6,441,776	\$ 6,719,790	4.32%	\$ 7,018,281	4.44%
4H8	226-602	Education Reform Grants	\$ 37,667	\$ 52,024	\$15,475	\$ 30,652	98.07%	\$ 31,476	2.69%
General Services Fund Group Total			\$ 37,667	\$ 52,024	\$ 15,475	\$ 30,652	98.07%	\$ 31,476	2.69%
310	226-626	Coordinating Unit	\$ 1,057,944	\$ 1,483,662	\$1,369,992	\$ 1,274,274	-6.99%	\$ 1,278,475	0.33%
3P5	226-643	Medicaid Professional Services Reimb	\$ 26,205	\$ 92,909	\$59,407	\$ 125,000	110.41%	\$ 125,000	0.00%
Federal Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 1,084,149	\$ 1,576,571	\$ 1,429,399	\$ 1,399,274	-2.11%	\$ 1,403,475	0.30%
4M5	226-601	Work Study & Technology Invest	\$ 19,843	\$ 26,341	\$42,493	\$ 41,854	-1.50%	\$ 42,919	2.54%
State Special Revenue Fund Group Total			\$ 19,843	\$ 26,341	\$ 42,493	\$ 41,854	-1.50%	\$ 42,919	2.54%
School for the Blind, Ohio State Total			\$ 6,955,139	\$ 7,940,242	\$ 7,929,143	\$ 8,191,570	3.31%	\$ 8,496,151	3.72%