

Education Commission of the States Membership Dues AN

Agency: 350 Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Budget Period: 2015-17

Recommendation Summary Text:

OSPI requests an annual appropriation of \$90,000 for membership dues for the Education Commission of the States (ECS). ECS is a non-profit, national organization that provides a range of education policy-related services to its members. Due to the volume of policy issues, academic research, and data related to education, it is impossible for any single agency or office to collect and analyze all information that is available to policymakers. An ECS membership would be a fiscally efficient solution to this problem. The benefits of ECS membership would extend to every state legislator, official, and agency involved in education policy development.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures		FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
General Fund	001-1		\$90,000	\$90,000
Total Cost				

Staffing	FY 2016	FY 2017	Annual Avg.
Total FTEs Requested	-	-	-

Package Description

Background

With limited research staff, it is difficult for OSPI, and other state agencies and offices involved in education policy development, to collect, analyze and synthesize the immense volume of relevant information available. Because major elements of Washington's K-12 system are undergoing changes, having the ability to track policy and collect data, is vital. At present, state education policy-making institutions are not equipped for the task of tracking legislation and identifying innovative best practices on a national scale.

Current Situation

Currently Washington State is the only state that does not have a membership to this national organization.

Proposed Solution

In order to obtain the best available information in the most efficient way, Washington must partner with an organization that specializes in both policy tracking and legislative support services; and the Education Commission of the States is the only organization

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that fits that profile. The requested annual appropriation of \$90,000, for ECS membership dues would: grant policy-makers access to a range services, including: background presentations and briefings on a variety of relevant topics, academic research summaries, specialized databases, unbiased testimony in legislative hearings, and a network of governors, state legislators, chief state school officers and higher education leaders.

Contact person

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Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

Joining ECS would increase the intellectual capacity of every state organization involved in education policymaking. Rejoining ECS will also create a neutral platform for discussion of information. Instead of conducting redundant research on a particular topic, with no guarantee of analytical congruity, multiple education policy-making institutions would be supplied with vetted information, by specialists with intimate knowledge of any given topic.

Performance Measure Detail

If funded, the success of this package would be determined by measuring the scope and depth of the information used to create education policies and inform decisions.

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Using data to measure performance trends is a key component of OSPI's strategic plan. Rejoining ECS, and gaining access to the data and analysis the organization possesses, is an essential step toward realizing the goal of precisely identifying best practices and implementing them broadly.

Reason for change:

Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?

Yes. Awareness of nuanced trends seen in other state education systems is vital when attempting to efficiently identify gaps in access and achievement.

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Does this decision package provide essential support to one or more of the Governor's Results Washington priorities? If so, describe.

Yes. Each the Governor's Results Washington goals for education would be made more obtainable if a greater volume of information were at the disposal of policy-makers.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

ECS membership benefits would be available to: the Department of Early Learning, the Washington Student Achievement Council, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, the State Board of Education, the Office of Program Research and any state legislator, agency or office involved in education policy-development, as well as OSPI.

Impact on Other State Programs

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

ECS is an entirely unique organization. There are no alternatives offering similar services on the same scale as ECS. At present, 49 states and multiple US territories are due-paying members. Washington is the only non-member state in the country.

What are the consequences of adopting or not adopting this package?

Education policy-makers will be forced to devote resources to the collection and analysis of information in a much less efficient manner than they would if they had ECS services at their disposal.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

None.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

N/A

Object Detail

		FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
A	Salary and Wages	\$0	\$0	\$0
B	Employee Benefits	\$0	\$0	\$0
C	Contracts	\$0	\$0	\$0

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E	Goods/Services	\$0	\$90,000	\$90,000
G	Travel	\$0	\$0	\$0
J	Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$0
N	Grants	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Interagency Reimbursement	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Other	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Objects		\$0	\$90,000	\$90,000

Expenditures & FTEs by Program

Activity Inventory Item	Prog	Staffing			Operating Expenditures		
		FY 2016	FY 2017	Avg	FY 2016	FY 2017	Total
Administration A002	010					\$90,000	\$90,000
Total Activities						\$90,000	\$90,000

Six-Year Expenditure Estimates

Fund	15-17 Total	17-19 Total	19-21 Total
001-1	\$90,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
Expenditure Total	\$90,000	\$180,000	\$180,000
FTEs			

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

ECS membership dues are owed annually. Upon rejoining, Washington would remain a member indefinitely.