

### Part 1 – Agency Profile

#### Agency Overview

The Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE), created in 1994, is a nonpartisan, independent office that serves the Legislature’s information needs by conducting performance evaluations of state agencies and programs. The mission of OPE is to promote confidence and accountability in state government through these evaluations. Evaluation findings, conclusions, and recommendations are used by the Legislature to make policy and budget decisions and by agencies to improve performance.

Performance evaluations include assessing whether

- agencies or programs are complying with applicable laws and legislative intent;
- services are provided efficiently and in a cost-effective manner; and
- programs and services are achieving intended results.

OPE works under the direction of the bipartisan Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC). The office has nine full-time staff, including six evaluators, an administrative coordinator, a research and technology assistant, and a director who serves at the pleasure of JLOC.

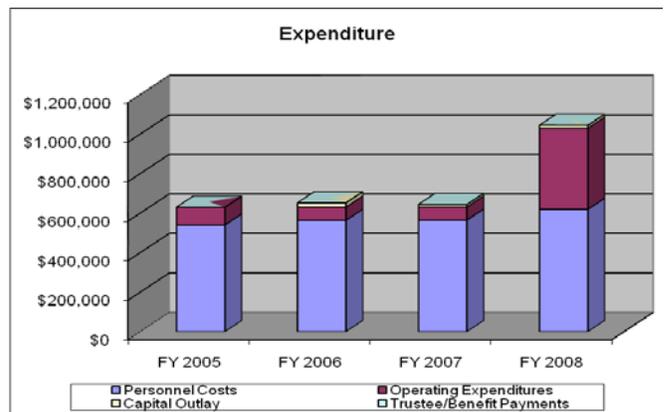
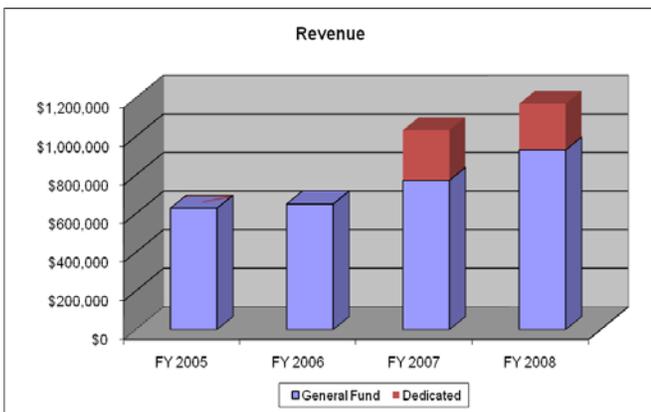
#### Core Functions/Idaho Code

Authorizing statutes: Idaho Code §§ 67-457 through 67-464

1. Conduct performance evaluations and report each evaluation to JLOC
2. Identify cost savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs
3. Provide useful recommendations to assist the Legislature in making policy and budget decisions
4. Be responsive to the Legislature’s information needs

#### Revenue and Expenditures

| Revenue                  | FY 2005          | FY 2006          | FY 2007            | FY 2008            |
|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| General Fund             | \$629,300        | \$651,500        | \$773,300          | \$931,000          |
| Dedicated                | \$0              | \$0              | \$260,000          | \$239,200          |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$629,300</b> | <b>\$651,500</b> | <b>\$1,033,300</b> | <b>\$1,170,200</b> |
| Expenditure              | FY 2005          | FY 2006          | FY 2007            | FY 2008            |
| Personnel Costs          | \$540,100        | \$563,300        | \$564,500          | \$618,900          |
| Operating Expenditures   | \$89,200         | \$67,200         | \$67,000           | \$411,100          |
| Capital Outlay           | \$0              | \$21,000         | \$11,900           | \$14,000           |
| Trustee/Benefit Payments | \$0              | \$0              | \$0                | 0                  |
| <b>Total</b>             | <b>\$629,300</b> | <b>\$651,500</b> | <b>\$643,400</b>   | <b>\$1,044,000</b> |



### Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

| Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided                     | FY 2005 | FY 2006 | FY 2007 | FY 2008 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of performance evaluation projects completed            | 3       | 3       | 3       | 6       |
| Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed | 1       | 0       | 8       | 9       |
| Number of federal mandate reviews completed                    | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       |

The OPE workload depends on the number and nature of projects assigned each year by JLOC.

### Performance Highlights

- Legislation introduced relating to OPE findings and recommendations:
  - H371 Authorized the transfer of the Statewide Interoperability Executive Council to the Military Division
  - H385 Amended the definition of a resident student for higher education
  - H401 Amended the definition of establishment of residency for higher education
  - H423 Amended the definition of a virtual school and the role of the Public Charter School Commission
  - H447 Authorized an additional fee for the Idaho Communications Act
  - S1403 Required due diligence documentation for public charter school petitions
  - S1427 Amended residency requirements for higher education
  - S1428 Amended the due date of audit reports for public school districts
- IDAPA Rule 08.02.04.205 was revised in response to the findings and recommendations of OPE report *Virtual School Operations*.
- IDAPA Rules 16.0612.0701 and 0702 were adopted in response to the findings and recommendations of OPE report *Idaho Child Care Program*.
- In conjunction with the creation of the Public Safety Communications Governance Council by Executive Order No. 2008-01, OPE report *Governance of Information Technology and Public Safety Communications* supported the establishment of the council as a positive step toward better management and coordination of the state's public safety communications responsibilities.
- OPE managed two consulting firms and two independent consultants in the research and release of five reports on health care costs in Idaho. JFAC appropriated OPE an additional \$250,000 for the studies.
- In March 2008, the Legislature requested OPE, through HCR50, to conduct a large performance audit of the Idaho Transportation Department, with completion and presentation of its findings, conclusions, and recommendations in January 2009. An additional \$550,000 was appropriated to OPE for the hiring of consulting firms. OPE is managing a team of 13 consultants and three independent consultants who are working on the audit.
- OPE received the 2008 Impact Award from the National Conference of State Legislatures' National Legislative Program Evaluation Society for its report *Management in the Department of Health and Welfare*, which documents public policy impact.
- OPE received the 2008 Notable Documents Award from the National Conference of State Legislatures' Legislative Research Librarians for its report *Virtual School Operations*, which explores "topics of contemporary interest to legislators and staff by presenting substantive material in an outstanding format."

**Part II – Performance Measures**

| Performance Measure  | 2005            | 2006            | 2007      | 2008            | Benchmark |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1. Provide useful recommendations to assist the Legislature in making policy and budget decisions measured by the number of bills and resolutions introduced or enacted in response to OPE recommendations | 1               | 5               | 6         | 8               | n/a       |
| 2. Identify cost-savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs measured by estimated cost savings or cost avoidance reported as a result of OPE recommendations                              | None identified | None identified | \$214,000 | None identified | n/a       |
| 3. Be responsive to the Legislature's information needs measured by number of "24-hour" limited reviews completed  | 0               | 2               | 0         | 2               | n/a       |
| 4. Be responsive to the Legislature's information needs measured by number of evaluation-related presentations made to the Legislature (does not include presentations to JLOC)                            | 5               | 5               | 0         | 5               | n/a       |

**Performance Measure Explanatory Note:**

Performance Measure #2. OPE measures cost-savings and opportunities to avoid unnecessary future costs when conducting follow-up reports of previous evaluations. The dollar amounts are based on actual agency implementation of recommendations.

Benchmarks are not applicable because OPE performance measures are subject to legislative requests, bill or resolution passage, and agency compliance.

**For More Information Contact**

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