

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 authorized positions: six evaluators, an administrative coordinator, a research and technology assistant, and a director who serves at the pleasure of JLOC.

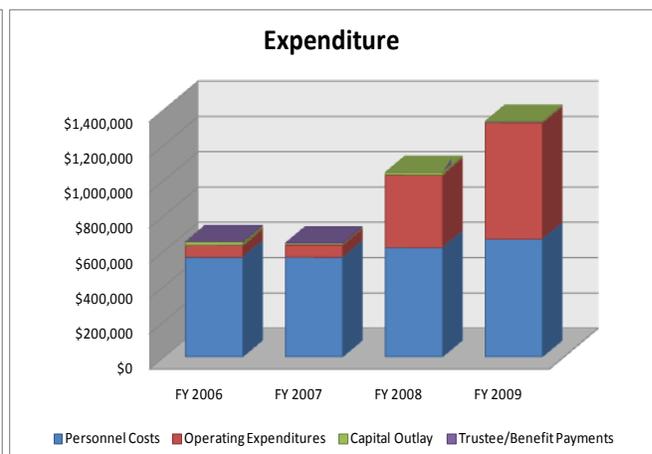
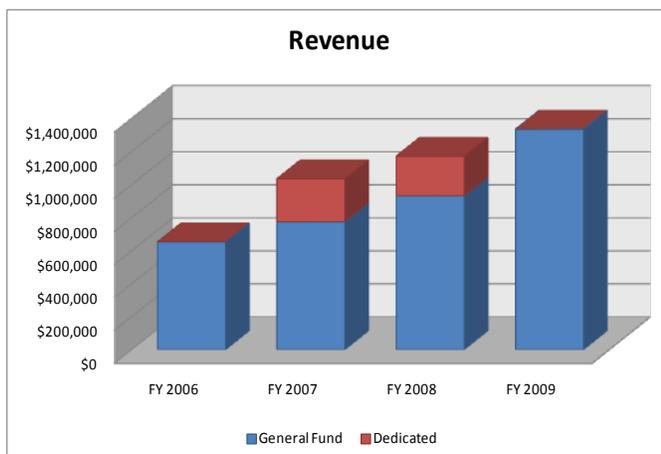
Core Functions/Idaho Code

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 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
General Fund	\$651,500	\$773,300	\$931,000	\$1,333,800
Dedicated	\$0	\$260,000	\$239,200	\$0
Total	\$651,500	\$1,033,300	\$1,170,200	\$1,333,800
Expenditure	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Personnel Costs	\$563,300	\$564,500	\$618,900	\$665,800
Operating Expenditures	\$67,200	\$67,000	\$411,100	\$660,900
Capital Outlay	\$21,000	\$11,900	\$14,000	\$6,700
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	0	\$0
Total	\$651,500	\$643,400	\$1,044,000	\$1,333,374



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2006	FY 2007	FY 2008	FY 2009
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	3	3	6	3
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	0	8	9	7
Number of federal mandate reviews completed	0	0	0	0

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

Performance Highlights

- Twenty-nine pieces of legislation related to OPE report findings, conclusions, and recommendations were introduced during the 2009 legislative session, including the following:
 - H338a Removes tax exemption for biodiesel fuel and gasohol, adding revenue to the Highway Distribution Account
 - H376 Changes the distribution percentages in the Highway Distribution Account
 - HCR34 Supports the Idaho Legislature as members of the Governor's Task Force on modernizing transportation funding
 - H157 Assists in the creation of the Idaho Education Network
 - H211 Amends existing law relating to residency requirements for public institutions of higher education
 - H371 Appropriates \$20,000 for a study on the pupil transportation program
 - S1165 Provides for the definition of a rural school district
- The Idaho Transportation Department Performance Audit identified \$30.6 million in one-time savings within the first five years and \$6.6 million in savings annually thereafter if the report recommendations are implemented.
- OPE managed a team of 12 consultants and another 5 independent consultants who provided technical assistance on evaluation projects. Most of these consultants worked on the Idaho Transportation Department Performance Audit for which the Legislature had appropriated an additional \$550,000.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures' National Legislative Program Evaluation Society awarded OPE the 2009 Impact Award for the report *Governance of Information Technology and Public Safety Communications*, which documents programmatic improvements and public policy impact.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures' Legislative Research Librarians awarded OPE the 2009 Notable Documents Award for the following three reports:
 - *Idaho Transportation Department Performance Audit*, for being "innovative and impartial in its presentation of funding needs and recommendations for Idaho's transportation infrastructure."
 - *Public Education Funding in Idaho*, for being "innovative in its easy-to-understand presentation of complex concepts related to education funding and its use of digestible tables and exhibits."
 - *Feasibility of School District Services Consolidation*, for being "innovative in its presentation of cooperative efforts taking place in Idaho and identifying areas of school-related financial savings, which could be applicable to other states as well."

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure	2006	2007	2008	2009	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	5	6	8	29	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	\$214,000	None identified	None identified	n/a
3. Be responsive to the Legislature's information needs measured by number of "24-hour" limited reviews completed	2	0	2	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	0	5	10	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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