

Part I – 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. Findings, conclusions, and recommendations from OPE evaluations 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 cost-effectively; and
- programs and services are achieving intended results.

OPE works under the direction of the bipartisan Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (JLOC). The office is authorized for eight full-time equivalent positions and has six full-time and three part-time staff.

Core Functions/Idaho Code

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

1. Conduct performance evaluations and report each evaluation to JLOC
2. Make recommendations to agencies for program improvements
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 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
General Fund	\$761,600	\$785,285	\$818,800	\$889,200
Dedicated	0	0	0	0
Total	\$761,600	\$785,285	\$818,800	\$889,200
Expenditures	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Personnel Costs	\$659,216	\$694,098	\$683,129	\$788,925
Operating Expenditures*	113,019	104,513	108,973	116,665
Capital Outlay	3,162	854	5,760	9,842
Trustee/Benefit Payments	0	0	0	0
Total	\$775,397	\$799,465	\$797,862	\$915,432

* Some operating expenditures were appropriated in prior fiscal year.

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Number of performance evaluation projects completed	4	6	3	3
Number of follow-up reviews for previous evaluations completed	0	1	5	2

The OPE workload depends on the number and nature of projects assigned each year by JLOC. Completed reports may be accessed at <https://legislature.idaho.gov/ope/reports/>.

FY 2017 Performance Highlights

OPE released the following evaluation reports and follow-up reviews in fiscal year 2017:

- Distribution of State Funds for K-12 Public Education
- Child Welfare System
- State Jurisdiction in Indian Country
- Distribution of State General Fund Dollars to Public Health Districts–Follow-up review
- Confinement of Juvenile Offenders–Second follow-up review

OPE received three awards during the fiscal year:

- 2016 Outstanding Evaluation Award from the American Evaluation Association for the reports *The K-12 Longitudinal Data System (ISEE)* and *Idaho's Instructional Management System (Schoolnet) Offers Lessons for Future IT Projects*.
- 2017 Notable Document Awards of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Legislative Research Librarians, for the reports *State Jurisdiction in Indian Country* and *Distribution of State Funds for K-12 Public Education*.
- 2017 Impact Award of the National Legislative Program Evaluation Society for the report *Idaho's Instructional Management System (Schoolnet) Offers Lessons for Future IT Projects*.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018
Goal 1						
Provide useful recommendations to assist the Legislature in making policy and budget decisions.						
1. Performance is measured by the number of bills and resolutions introduced or enacted in response to OPE recommendations.	actual	3	12	4	7	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Goal 2						
Respond to the Legislature's information needs.						
2. Performance is measured by the number of "24-hour" limited reviews completed.	actual	0	0	2	1	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
3. Performance is measured by the number of evaluation-related presentations made to the Legislature (does not include presentations to JLOC).	actual	6	4	7	12	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Goal 3						
Promote confidence and accountability in state government through education and outreach to interested stakeholders and participation in professional associations.						
4. Performance is measured by the number of evaluation-related presentations made outside of the Legislature.	actual	11	11	8	15	-----
	target	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

Bills enacted

- Senate Bill 1164 is the appropriation bill for child welfare at the Department of Health and Welfare. The bill increased the foster care reimbursement rates by 20 percent and added funding for two additional social workers to reduce the workload of staff. The 2017 report *Child Welfare System* discussed these issues.
- House Bill 262 amended existing law to increase the public school funding formula for college and career advisors. The 2012 report *Reducing Barriers to Postsecondary Education* highlighted the need for more counselors specifically focused on college and career readiness to increase the number of high school graduates that enter postsecondary education institutions.

24-hour reviews

OPE staff conducted one background review for legislators about the Board of Licensure of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors.

Legislative presentations

Staff made 12 presentations to legislative committees, not including presentations to JLOC:

- Three presentations to the Public School Funding Formula Committee on the report *Distribution of State Funds for K-12 Public Education*
- Two presentations to the Foster Care Interim Committee on the report *Child Welfare System*
- Overview of several OPE reports to the State Procurement Laws Interim Committee
- Presentations to both the Senate and House Health and Welfare committees on the report *Child Welfare System*
- Presentations to both the Senate Judiciary and Rules and the House Judiciary, Rules, and Administration committees on the report *Child Welfare System*
- Idaho Council on Indian Affairs on the report *State Jurisdiction in Indian Country*
- Administrative Hearing Officer Interim Committee on the report *Risk of Bias in Administrative Hearings*

Presentations made outside the legislature

Staff made 15 presentations outside of the legislature to the following organizations: National Legislative Program Evaluation Society, American Evaluation Association, American Society for Public Administrators, Eastern Evaluation Society, Idaho Tribal Juvenile Justice Council, Five Tribes Summit, guardian ad litem subcommittee of Idaho Supreme Court, and University of Idaho.

For More Information Contact

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