

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission

Statutory Authority:

The Commission's purposes, powers, and duties were established and are defined by Article VII, Section 14, of the Constitution of Nebraska and the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education Act, §§85-1401 et seq. Nebraska Revised Statute (Reissue 1994). The main purpose of the Commission, as described in Section 85-1403, is the coordination of public postsecondary education institutions in Nebraska. The Commission has a complete set of rules and regulations on file with the Secretary of State.

Vision Statement:

The Commission promotes cooperation and collaboration among Nebraska's postsecondary institutions. The Commission is a partner with the higher education community, the executive branch, and the legislative branch in identifying and meeting educational needs of the state. The Commission will foster changes and improvements in higher education on a continual basis while avoiding unnecessary duplication. It will strive to increase higher education's capacity to change, ensure affordability, and foster accountability, productivity and efficiency leading to long-term viability.

Mission Statement:

The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education is a constitutional agency that coordinates the state's public postsecondary institutions. The purposes of the Coordinating Commission are: 1) to develop an ongoing comprehensive statewide plan for the operation of an educationally and economically sound, vigorous, progressive, and coordinated system of postsecondary education; 2) to identify and enact policies to meet the educational, research, and public service needs of the state; 3) to effect the best use of available resources through the elimination of unnecessary programs and facilities among Nebraska's public institutions.

Goals:

The primary constitutional and statutory goals and responsibilities of the Commission include:

- 1) Review and update a comprehensive statewide plan for a coordinated approach to a system of postsecondary education in Nebraska.
- 2) Review and approve new and existing instructional programs and new private or out-of-state institutions.
- 3) Review and modify budget requests of public institutions and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature.
- 4) Review and approve proposed capital construction projects of public institutions and prioritize approved projects.
- 5) Collect and provide data and factual information about public postsecondary institutions.
- 6) Administer the student financial aid programs.
- 7) Administer the Improving Teacher Quality Improvement program (formerly Eisenhower Professional Development Program).

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	6,821,075	6,880,069	8,410,169	6,921,528	8,422,509	6,955,615
Cash Fund	1,994,115	2,010,000	2,510,000	2,511,409	4,760,000	4,761,804
Federal Fund	1,352,622	917,731	997,731	998,521	997,731	999,292
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Agency	10,167,812	9,807,800	11,917,900	10,431,458	14,180,240	12,716,711

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission Program 297 - Math / Science

Program Objectives:

The purpose of the Improving Teacher Quality is to improve the teaching and learning of all students by helping to ensure that teachers, administrators, and other staff have access to sustained and intensive high quality professional development. In 2002 this program was reauthorized as the Improving Teacher Quality state grant program. The program provides grants to Nebraska partnerships comprised of teacher education and arts and sciences divisions at institutions of higher education and high need local educational agencies for projects to improve the skills of in-service teachers, principals, and para-professionals in elementary and secondary schools. Federal statutes allow support for both public and private institutions and for any core academic subject area.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	319,645	320,000	400,000	400,584	400,000	401,157
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	319,645	320,000	400,000	400,584	400,000	401,157

Performance Measures:

Thirteen performance measures have been designated to evaluate the program. These include the number of in-service projects funded and the number of teachers participating, and the number of local educational agencies involved in the program.

Beginning in 2003 with the implementation of the Improving Teacher Quality program, performance measures will include the number of projects funded for para-professionals and the number of para-professionals participating, the number of projects addressing the needs of low performing schools, the number of schools participating, the number of projects addressing needs of high-need local educational agencies, and the number of high need local educational agencies participating.

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission Program 640 - Administration

Program Objectives:

Program 640 (Administration) contains the majority of the Commission's responsibilities. In performance of its responsibilities, the Commission will 1) fulfill its constitutional and statutory responsibilities to the state of Nebraska, 2) foster cooperation and collaboration with the postsecondary education institutions and K/12 throughout the state, 3) promote efficiency and accountability among the institutions to affect best use of available resources through elimination of unnecessary duplication, 4) identify and develop policies to meet the postsecondary educational, research and public service needs of the state, and 5) serve as an advocate for postsecondary education in Nebraska.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	1,076,715	1,113,254	1,361,143	1,154,713	1,373,483	1,188,800
Cash Fund	1,683	10,000	10,000	11,409	10,000	11,804
Federal Fund	2,119	6,000	6,000	6,206	6,000	6,404
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,080,517	1,129,254	1,377,143	1,172,328	1,389,483	1,207,008

Performance Measures:

The Commission has established some measures of its performance which include gathering data from sources outside the Commission in its efforts to provide reports on others' performance.

- 1) Review each institution's progress in compliance with the Comprehensive Statewide Plan including specific indicators identified by the institutions as their unique goals for meeting their role and missions.
- 2) Examine and report on enrollment and graduation percentages of students by ethnicity, as compared with in Nebraska population demographics.
- 3) Gather and report on tuition as compared with peer institutions, examining tuition rate as a percent of total revenues and as related to percent of disposable and per capita income.
- 4) Request and report on number of off-campus courses delivered by information technologies and the uses of instructional technology utilized by each institution.
- 5) Request and report on cooperation and sharing of courses such as number of articulated programs, team teaching, joint curricula, number of 2+2 programs and number of collaborative courses and enrollments.

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission Program 690 - Nebraska Scholarship Program

Program Objectives:

Under Program 690, grants are provided to the State's financially neediest students at all eligible public, private, and private career postsecondary institutions. The Commission requests an increase for each year of the 2005-2007 biennium to move Nebraska closer to the midpoint of the states offering need-based financial aid. As of the 2002-03 academic year, Nebraska ranked 38th in the country.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	5,744,360	5,717,065	6,949,026	5,717,065	6,949,026	5,717,065
Cash Fund	1,992,432	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	4,750,000	4,750,000
Federal Fund	1,030,858	591,731	591,731	591,731	591,731	591,731
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	8,767,650	8,308,796	10,040,757	8,808,796	12,290,757	11,058,796

Performance Measures:

- 1) At the end of each fiscal year collect data for the state grant program calculating the number of awards and average grant.
- 2) If the additional \$2.5 million is appropriated in FY06, approximately 4,000 more students with an average award of \$599 could be helped by the state grant. If the full amount is appropriated in FY07 (which, at the time LB574 was passed, was estimated at approximately \$4 million), approximately 6,600 additional students with an average award of \$599 could be assisted.
- 3) Audit of the institutions will continue to ensure that awards are given to eligible students.

Agency 48 - Postsecondary Education Commission Program 691 - Community Scholarship Fd Program

Program Objectives:

Program 691 is the Community Scholarship Foundation Program Act. Under this program matching grants are awarded as an incentive to Nebraska community foundations to raise money and award scholarships to residents who wish to pursue postsecondary education. The program encourages local foundations to generate local dollars to match funding provided by the state. The Commission requests an increase for each year of the 2005-2007 biennium.

Financial Data:

	Actual FY04	Approp FY05	Request FY06	Recom FY06	Request FY07	Recom FY07
General Fund	0	49,750	100,000	49,750	100,000	49,750
Cash Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Revolving Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	49,750	100,000	49,750	100,000	49,750

Performance Measures:

- 1) Increase funding by \$50,000 for both FY06 and FY07 by allocating new money.
- 2) Funding of this program leverages state funds by encouraging an increase in private funding of scholarships.