

Budget Savings Options 2020

Dollars in Thousands

Agency: State Board of Education

Agency Priority H, M, L	Impact 1-5	Program/Activity	GF-S				Other Funds				FTE Change		Brief Description and Rationale	Effective Date (MM/YY)	Impacts of Reductions and Other Considerations	Law/Reg. Change Required (cite)
			FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	Fund	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 20				
L	4	Freeze Equipment Purchases		3	3	3			6		6			5/18/2020	T2 - It's challenging to anticipate equipment needs over this long of a timespan. Most IT equipment is relatively recent but this would make routine and emergency replacement more challenging from a budgeting standpoint.	
M	1	Freeze Hiring - SBE has a vacant part-time position dedicated primarily to the private schools oversight role.	3	29	29	29								5/18/2020	T2 - This is a responsibility that was recently transferred to the Board and is under-resourced. The Board will be considering a rule change (to WAC 180-90) to reduce workload in this area and may seek a change in the related RCW (28A.195.010). Specifically SBE will consider a change that would require established schools (those operating with full approval for 5 or more years) to only complete the certification application every 3 years. In rule the Board could reduce paperwork for those schools (and staff) but would still need to require an annual certification that the minimum state requirements are met. A change in RCW would be required to move to a multi-year approval for established schools.	WAC 180-90 and RCW 28A.195
M	1	Restrict Travel		6	6	6			2		4			3/16/2020	T2 - Travel to Board meetings is captured in Board Meetings Savings. The savings here is associated with additional travel to support outreach and engagement and professional development. Staff travel to meetings throughout the state to support the work of the Board. In addition, staff attend national meetings and conferences to learn from colleagues and experts across the country.	
M	1	ESSHB 1599 - Mastery Based Learning Workgroup.		15	-	-								3/16/2020	T2 - The workgroup has already transitioned to online meetings, however, as the group approaches final recommendations lack of an opportunity for in-person meetings may make concluding the work more challenging.	
M	1	General Reduction		11	11	11			22		22			7/1/2020	T1 - The Board proposed eliminating a biennial joint report with the Professional Educator's Standards Board. The report was likely important when duties between the two agencies were initially transferred but the report appears to no longer serve a critical purpose. In addition, the Board is working to identify other administrative savings. That review may result in identification of other activities that could be changed or eliminated.	RCW 28A.305.035
M	2	Membership Dues		36	36	36								7/1/2020	T3 - The Board benefits from a membership to the National Association of School Boards. This membership provides access to shared learning and resources from other boards throughout the country. Particularly in a time of crisis this kind of clearinghouse for information about how other states are addressing similar school-related challenges is helpful for members. However, the Board has few places to make cuts and this is a significant cost.	

H	1	Board Meetings	17	23	23	23								Shorten regular Board meetings and transition two per year to be online rather than face-to-face. These were planned changes to free up resources to support other priority work, including private school-related work.	5/14/2020	T1 - This was a planned change to generate budget savings prior to the guidance related to reductions. The Board had already been making changes so that resources could be provided to shore up other areas that were under resourced (like private schools for example described above). Given the fiscal challenges the savings could instead support temporary reductions but other priority work would continue to be impacted.	
H	2	Board Member Outreach		34	34	34								Reduce Board member face-to-face outreach expenses. Board members reach out in various ways, including meeting with school boards and administrators, to hear concerns, share information about our work, and make connections with various stakeholder groups. Reducing these expenditures by reducing the amount of face-to-face outreach will free up resources to maintain other priority work despite budget cuts.	7/1/2020	T3 - Reducing resources to support member outreach would have significant impact on the Board's ability to conduct their work and represent the needs of their communities as a public policy making board. This outreach is important to provide members with background to better understand challenges and policy options as they make decisions to support our education system.	
H	2	Online Board Meetings		24	24	24								Transition three additional regular Board meetings per year to be online rather than face-to-face for up to three years. This goes beyond the planned changes to regular Board meetings described above. These changes will free up resources to maintain other priority work despite budget cuts.	9/1/2020	T3 - While there are significant savings to the agency in terms of meeting costs this would effect agency effectiveness. In-person meetings are an important part of the Board's work. These meetings are critical to allow for greater public engagement with the members and allow the members themselves to build trust and community with one another so they can engage meaningfully in debate on issues under consideration. While the Board has transitioned well to online meetings it is clear that in-person interactions would be preferable when it is safe to do so. It is worth noting that for years the Board has made their meetings available online with live and recording streaming. Beginning at the Board's March 2020 meeting we moved to a more interactive online platform to be used in conjunction with in-person and online meetings.	

Priority:

L = Low priority agency activity or program
M = Medium priority agency activity or program
H = High priority agency activity or program

Impact:

1 = Allows continuation of the program/activity at a reduced level
2 = Eliminates the ability to perform program objectives
3 = Eliminates agency function
4 = Long term implications (moves the problem to next biennium)
5 = Short term (reduction to one time increase)

Notes:

The approach to reductions taken by SBE was to evaluate those areas where cuts would have the least impact on the effectiveness of the Board in conducting its work. The items are sorted based on the priority and impact scores applied per the provided descriptions. However, in the impact description SBE has also added a note regarding reduction Tiers. The differentiation of tiers is framed in three categories - planned reductions (T1), additional reductions and savings (T2), and major reductions (T3). The savings do not assume staff reductions, with the exception of a freeze on hiring a replacement for a part-time staff position. The planned reductions shown in Tier 1 had been in process to convert that to a full time position to mitigate a shortfall in resources to address responsibilities transferred to the agency in 2018. In addition to the tiers it is also important to note that the nature of the cuts also will matter. The longer the cuts are in place the greater the impact. Some things, like online meetings, we need to do right now anyway but the longer we go without meaningful in-person contacts the more challenging the work becomes. Similarly, we can suspend travel, equipment, and professional development activities over the near term but long term the impacts grow at an increasing rate.

T1 - Planned Reduction. These are operational changes that were previously planned to address workload balance issues. Prior to the crisis State Board staff were working on reductions in some expenditure categories to better align resources with agency workload. In addition, the agency was preparing a budget request to ask for additional resources to support certain agency responsibilities. In general these reductions would lock-in existing resource and workload challenges but would not add to the challenges substantially.

T2 - Additional Reductions and Savings. These additional reductions would impact our ability to operate at the desired level. In some cases the agency will request corresponding responsibilities be modified or eliminated, in other cases the changes may impact timelines or comprehensiveness of the work products.

T3 - Major reductions. These changes would have a substantial impact on our ability to operate in a way that best serves the state and may have longer term negative impacts. For example, the lack of in-person board meetings and restrictions on travel over the longer term will negatively impact the board's ability to respond to the local needs of our educational communities and make it more challenging for board members to build the rapport with one another and with stakeholders necessary to engage in responsive public discourse.