

Role and Overview

The Ohio State School for the Blind (OSB) provides residential educational services in Columbus to school-age (grades K through 12) blind and visually-impaired youth so that they may become self-sufficient members of society. OSB also provides consultative services to any of the 612 school districts in the State of Ohio. While attending OSB, students are expected to demonstrate academic proficiency, practical work-related skills, and an awareness of appropriate social behaviors.

Enrollment at OSB is approximately 135 full-time students for the 2006-2007 school year and about half of the students live on campus. Students, ages five to 22, are placed in the school by their local school district in cooperation with the wishes of their guardians. A majority of students have experienced a lack of success in "mainstreaming" local educational programs due to the severity of their disabilities or the lack of resources available in the local district. An Individualized Education Program is tailored for each student's academic and behavioral skill level and updated each year. Graduates go on to further educational and work experiences. Of those from the past three graduating classes, 40.5% went on to higher education, 31.1% went on to sheltered workshop programs, 14.2% went on to post-secondary vocational training programs, and 14.2% entered the workforce. Students with multiple disabilities return to their local communities and participate in closed workshop programs operated by County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities or find specialized competitive employment. Outreach services are also provided to an additional 75 to 80 students through the summer program, educational clinic, and local district consultations.

The State Board of Education and the Ohio Department of Education oversee operations at OSB. The school has approximately 135 employees and budget is approximately \$10.7 million, of which approximately \$7.9 million is funded from the General Revenue Fund.



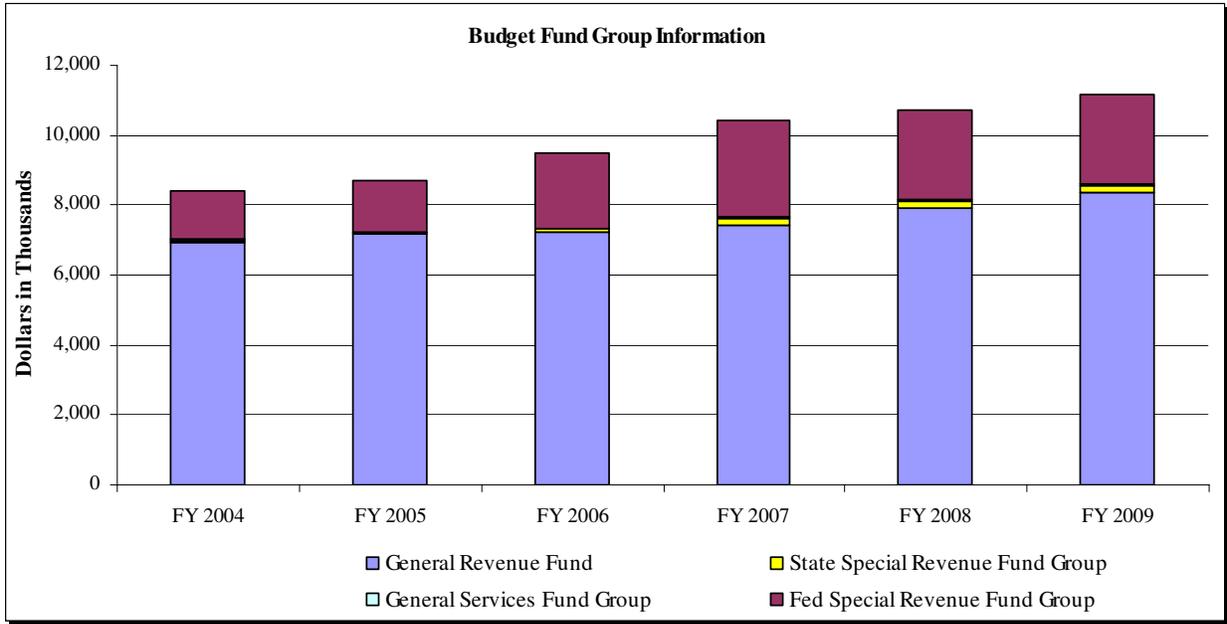
Turnaround Ohio Initiatives

- Promote schools that work for every child by providing teachers with access to tools and technology that help breakdown barriers to learning for blind and visually-impaired students and staff, and stimulate creative, problem-solving students to power Ohio's 21st century economy.
- Contribute to efforts to increase the number of students in Ohio's colleges and universities by focusing on graduation rates and pushing blind and visually-impaired students to fully realize their potential.
- Provide job training and placement opportunities to students of the Ohio State School for the Blind, as well as blind and visually-impaired students from around the state, and partner with the Rehabilitation Services Commission's Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) to increase the opportunities of blind and visually-impaired youth to attain skills for high-quality jobs.

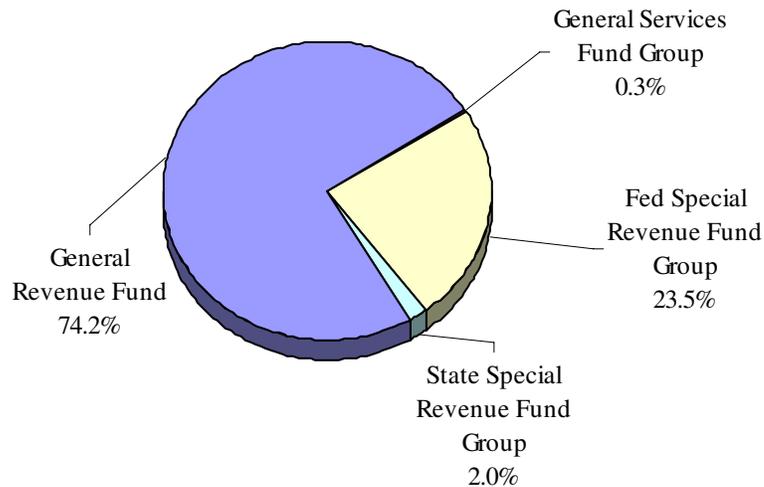
Agency Priorities

- Promote the intellectual, social, physical, and emotional growth of blind and visually-impaired students.
- Help our students to achieve their utmost academic and/or vocational potential, and become contributing members of their communities.
- Work cooperatively with students, families, and the community to provide an effective, enjoyable educational experience through specialized curriculum, equipment, materials, and individualized disability-specific instruction.
- Maintain a healthy, safe, and supportive residential environment.
- On behalf of the Ohio Department of Education, provide leadership and assistance to local school districts and other educational programs in meeting the educational needs of the approximately 1,500 blind and visually impaired students across the state.
- Ensure the state meets all the federal educational requirements, like those found in the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as they pertain to blind and visually-impaired children.

Summary of Budget History and Recommendations



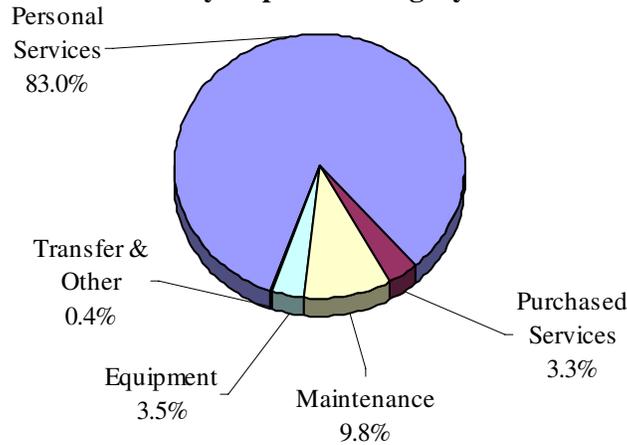
**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation
by Budget Fund Group**



State of Ohio
Ohio State School for the Blind

(In thousands) BUDGET FUND GROUP	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2007	% CHANGE FY 06-07	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006			FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
General Revenue Fund	6,941	7,183	7,207	7,412	2.8	7,911	6.7	8,337	5.4
General Services Fund Group	30	30	21	38	75.2	38	.0	38	.0
Fed Special Revenue Fund Group	1,414	1,469	2,171	2,742	26.3	2,577	(6.0)	2,577	.0
State Special Revenue Fund Group	42	28	99	217	118.6	217	.0	217	.0
TOTAL	8,427	8,709	9,499	10,409	9.6	10,743	3.2	11,169	4.0

**FY 2008-09 Biennial Appropriation
by Expense Category**



(In thousands) OBJECT OF EXPENSE	ACTUAL			ESTIMATE FY 2007	% CHANGE FY 06-07	RECOMMENDED			
	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006			FY 2008	% CHANGE	FY 2009	% CHANGE
Personal Services	7,354	7,458	7,934	8,439	6.4	8,884	5.3	9,310	4.8
Purchased Services	214	105	114	323	184.6	358	10.8	358	.0
Maintenance	729	899	1,094	1,149	5.1	1,075	(6.5)	1,075	.0
Equipment	122	247	357	453	26.8	381	(15.7)	381	.0
Transfer & Other	7	0	1	44	4,927.9	44	(1.0)	44	.0
TOTAL	8,427	8,709	9,499	10,409	9.6	10,743	3.2	11,169	4.0

PROGRAM SERIES 01: Education Program

This program series supports the educational needs of the specialized population of blind and visually impaired children, including those who are developmentally handicapped or multi-handicapped.

Program 01.01: Visually Impaired Education Program

This program provides for the implementation of classroom instruction and related services by certified personnel for children in grades K through 12 who are enrolled in the visually impaired education program. These are children who, despite their visual or other impairments, take part in the statewide graduation testing programs and a full range of other school activities. In addition to receiving classroom instruction, the children are also provided daily living skills, career exploration, and work simulation experiences. Students enrolled in this program must complete the academic requirements that have been established by the State of Ohio.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Serve the educational needs of approximately 135 blind or visually impaired students, some of whom are cognitively impaired or multi-handicapped, ages five to 22, in grades K through 12;
- Support the wages and benefits for 56 education employees, including teachers, related service therapists, and classroom aides;
- Upgrade instructional materials and technology needed as determined through the Individualized Education Program process (IEP), including braille books, Braillelite note takers, braille embossers, and various specialized computer programs; and
- Provide therapy for students for whom it is required, as determined by their IEP.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	226-100	Personal Services	2,385,102	2,550,944
GRF	GRF	226-200	Maintenance	14,302	14,302
GRF	GRF	226-300	Equipment	1,228	1,228
GSF	4H8	226-602	School Improvement Grants	37,514	37,514
FED	310	226-626	Multi-Handicapped Student Support	1,324,435	1,324,435
SSR	4M5	226-601	Work Study & Donations	119,775	119,775
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				3,882,356	4,048,198

PROGRAM SERIES 02: Residential Program

This program series provides the residential and support services for the students enrolled in the school program. Services include dormitory living with a variety of recreation, food, and health services. Youth leaders and recreation staff supervise students' activities outside the classroom.

Program 02.01: Residential Program

This program supports the direct service and support staff needed for implementing the residential program for students that reside at the school. The program promotes the development of daily living skills for independent living. There are three types of living and learning environments: group living in the cottages; independent living providing daily living and self-help skills taught and reinforced by staff; and apartment living. Students are taught meal planning and cooking, food shopping, and are assigned housekeeping responsibilities.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Serve students residing at the school campus five days a week during the school year;
- Support 29.5 employees maintaining residential services and supervision 24 hours a day;
- Fund daily living necessities related to residential living, including housekeeping, cooking, and recreational supplies; and
- Provide for the general maintenance of the living cottages and student apartments.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	226-100	Personal Services	1,115,353	1,149,640
GRF	GRF	226-200	Maintenance	24,600	24,600
GRF	GRF	226-300	Equipment	5,000	5,000
FED	310	226-626	Multi-Handicapped Student Support	41,801	41,801
SSR	4M5	226-601	Work Study & Donations	10,666	10,666
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				1,197,420	1,231,707

Program 02.02: Student Health Care Services

This program provides direct nursing services for the school and residential programs. Services include: distribution of medication; monitoring of health needs; eye examinations; general health screenings; filing health records and releases for service; and providing in-service training for employees, such as cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Nursing is provided on a 24-hour basis from Sunday afternoon until Friday afternoon when the students leave to go home for the weekend.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Provide for five medical-related employees, including one registered nurse that the school shares with the Ohio School for the Deaf, to provide services on a 24-hour basis from Sunday at 4:00 p.m. until Friday at 4:00 p.m. during the school year; and
- Finance low-vision eye examinations that are required yearly for all students enrolled at the school.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	226-100	Personal Services	280,202	312,202
GRF	GRF	226-200	Maintenance	3,857	3,857
GRF	GRF	226-300	Equipment	2,000	2,000
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				286,059	318,059

PROGRAM SERIES 03: Outreach Program

This program series provides outreach services available to local school districts statewide to assist in meeting the educational needs of the blind and visually impaired that are being served in their home communities.

Program 03.01: Outreach Program

The outreach program includes three components: the educational clinic, observation and school visits, and professional development. The educational clinic provides assistance to local school districts for the evaluation and assessment of visually impaired, blind, and deaf/blind students educated in local school districts. The lack of specialized services at the local level necessitates operation of the educational clinic. Observation and school visits provide local school districts with assistance in developing the appropriate educational programming for blind or visually impaired students being educated in their district of residence. Such assistance includes observations and instructional programming recommendations, and orientation and mobility training. Professional development supports training for special and regular education teachers working with visually impaired, blind, and deaf/blind

children in local school districts. Teaching and support staff are presented techniques, methods, and materials for assistance in teaching the specialized population.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Provide assistance with assessments upon request for blind or visually impaired students educated in any local school district in Ohio;
- Provide approximately 45 to 50 Multifactorial Evaluations (MFE) per year for blind or visually impaired children educated in local school districts to determine their educational needs;
- Enable local school districts to request assistance from OSB to observe blind or visually impaired students in district classrooms for programming recommendations;
- Support wages for 12 teachers at OSB that assist with observations on a part-time basis;
- Fund approximately 20 to 25 visits to local school districts;
- Support professional development for local school district educators serving blind or visually impaired students.
- Certify teachers to provide orientation and mobility services to students at the local level; and
- Fund the Parent Mentor project, which provides support and information for parents of students who are blind or visually impaired.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	226-100	Personal Services	1,120,828	1,314,890
GRF	GRF	226-200	Maintenance	6,200	6,200
FED	310	226-626	Multi-Handicapped Student Support	950,531	950,531
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				2,077,559	2,271,621

PROGRAM SERIES 04: Program Management

This program series provides administrative support for the operation of the school and residential programs.

Program 04.01: Program Management and Support Services

This program provides administrative support for the school and residential programs, including business and fiscal operations, buildings and grounds maintenance, security, food service, and technological equipment.

The Executive Recommendation will:

- Support the wages and benefits of 39 employees who provide administrative and service support for OSB; and
- Maintain administration services, business and fiscal operations, building and grounds maintenance, security, food service, and technology infrastructure.

FUND				RECOMMENDED	
GROUP	FUND	ALI	ALI NAME	FY 2008	FY 2009
GRF	GRF	226-100	Personal Services	2,191,642	2,191,642
GRF	GRF	226-200	Maintenance	655,195	655,195
GRF	GRF	226-300	Equipment	105,060	105,060
FED	3P5	226-643	Medicaid Svcs Reimbursement	50,000	50,000
FED	310	226-626	Multi-Handicapped Student Support	210,338	210,338
SSR	4M5	226-601	Work Study & Donations	86,956	86,956
TOTAL FOR PROGRAM				3,299,191	3,299,191

LINE ITEM SUMMARY - School for the Blind

FUND	ALI	ALI TITLE	FY 2004 ACTUAL	FY 2005 ACTUAL	FY 2006 ACTUAL	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	FY 2008 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE	FY 2009 RECOMMENDED	% CHANGE
GRF	226-100	Personal Services	6,225,601	6,356,271	6,394,206	6,594,261	7,093,127	7.6	7,519,318	6.0
GRF	226-200	Maintenance	638,633	682,378	767,299	704,163	704,154	.0	704,154	.0
GRF	226-300	Equipment	76,543	143,946	45,954	113,289	113,288	.0	113,288	.0
TOTAL General Revenue Fund			6,940,777	7,182,595	7,207,459	7,411,713	7,910,569	6.7	8,336,760	5.4
4H8	226-602	School Improvement Grants	29,614	30,467	21,410	37,514	37,514	.0	37,514	.0
TOTAL General Services Fund Group			29,614	30,467	21,410	37,514	37,514	.0	37,514	.0
3P5	226-643	Medicaid Svcs Reimbursement	46,840	98,251	26,830	210,000	50,000	(76.2)	50,000	.0
310	226-626	Multi-Handicapped Student Support	1,367,006	1,370,287	2,144,001	2,531,892	2,527,105	(.2)	2,527,105	.0
TOTAL Fed Special Revenue Fund Group			1,413,846	1,468,538	2,170,831	2,741,892	2,577,105	(6.0)	2,577,105	.0
4M5	226-601	Work Study & Donations	42,400	27,636	99,455	217,396	217,397	.0	217,397	.0
TOTAL State Special Revenue Fund Group			42,400	27,636	99,455	217,396	217,397	.0	217,397	.0
TOTAL School for the Blind			8,426,637	8,709,236	9,499,155	10,408,515	10,742,585	3.2	11,168,776	4.0