
Issue Brief – IT Software and Hardware

NUMBER USHE-06

SUMMARY

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends funding to address increases in software costs in USHE information technology. As our dependence on IT grows, ongoing support is essential to provide the necessary software support. The Analyst recommends ongoing funding in the amount of \$900,000 for software licensing. In addition, the Analyst recommends a one-time appropriation of \$3 million for IT equipment replacement.

OBJECTIVE

The USHE utilizes central purchasing, licensing, and management of major software systems in an effort to provide efficiencies and reduce overall costs.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

The maintenance and licensing arrangements for some of the major software systems are managed through the Commissioner's Office. Central management and group purchasing of major software and hardware has a number of advantages:

- Cost savings generated from increase purchase discounts for volume purchases
- Standardization of software over the USHE for efficient transfer of data
- Facilitate reporting and warehousing of data

To provide the necessary software licensing, the Analyst recommends funding for FY 2008 in the amount of \$900,000.

Much of the current IT equipment at the USHE institutions is aging and is in need of replacement. New technology will replace obsolete equipment with faster and more efficient equipment. The recommended one-time funding level of \$3 million will be used to purchase routers, servers, switches, and hubs for the USHE campuses.

