

HIGHER EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

HIGHER EDUCATION
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ISSUE BRIEF

SUMMARY

The Legislature recognized the importance of technology in providing higher education to students in the state by approving the Higher Education Technology Initiative (HETI) in the 1990s. HETI funds are appropriated to the State Board of Regents' Technology line item. The HETI, administered through the State Board of Regents by the USHE Chief Information Officer, helps institutions leverage technology funds through increased purchasing power for both hardware and software. The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends that the subcommittee forward to the Executive Appropriations Subcommittee for further consideration, a one-time appropriation in the amount of \$1.9 million for the Higher Education Technology Initiative for equipment purchases for the USHE institutions.

OBJECTIVE

Additional funding for technology in education helps meet the increasing demands of teaching students as well as the administration of USHE institutions. One-time funding works well because many equipment purchases are one-time in nature. Institutions have identified one-time equipment purchases that are needed on their campuses.

DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Because technology is such an integral part of both education and administration at USHE institutions, it is necessary for those institutions to keep up with changing technology and be able to support students, faculty, and staff. The HETI budget has an ongoing base of almost \$4.6 million. The Legislature has, at various times, augmented this appropriation with one-time funds, when they have become available.

The Legislative Fiscal Analyst recommends that the subcommittee consider a one-time appropriation of \$1.9 million for the Higher Education Technology Initiative. The source of this one-time funding is the pre-funded Operations and Maintenance funding that is in institutional ongoing base budgets, but is not needed during FY 2013 and has been recommended for one-time reductions. For further information on the specific capital facilities with the associated O & M, please refer to the USHE Operations and Maintenance State-Funded Facilities Issue Brief (pages 7-10).