

Office of Higher Education

DHE66500

Permanent Full-Time Positions

Fund	Actual FY 24	Actual FY 25	Governor Estimated FY 26	Original Appropriation FY 27	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference -Gov FY 27
General Fund	27	28	28	28	28	28	-
Banking Fund	-	-	-	-	3	3	-

Budget Summary

Account	Actual FY 24	Actual FY 25	Governor Estimated FY 26	Original Appropriation FY 27	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference -Gov FY 27
Personal Services	1,626,550	1,624,580	1,755,031	1,855,031	1,855,031	1,855,031	-
Other Expenses	1,227,589	715,697	2,205,103	3,142,258	731,175	179,166	(552,009)
Other Current Expenses							
Minority Advancement Program	1,690,528	1,269,221	1,674,835	1,674,835	1,674,835	1,674,835	-
National Service Act	454,740	278,799	320,151	320,151	320,151	320,151	-
Minority Teacher Incentive Program	446,669	408,737	570,134	570,134	570,134	570,134	-
CT Loan Reimbursement	-	1,583,045	500,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	5,000,000	(1,000,000)
Alternate Route to Certification	-	-	-	-	-	300,000	300,000
Other Than Payments to Local Governments							
Roberta B. Willis Scholarship Fund	8,017,698	28,393,834	26,288,637	41,288,637	41,288,637	41,288,637	-
Various Grants	-	-	-	-	1,888,867	4,313,092	2,424,225
Health Care Adjunct Grant Program	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000	-
Agency Total - General Fund	13,723,774	34,533,913	33,573,891	55,111,046	54,588,830	55,761,046	1,172,216
Personal Services	-	-	-	-	279,800	279,800	-
Other Expenses	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000	-
Fringe Benefits	-	-	-	-	222,500	222,500	-
Agency Total - Banking Fund	-	-	-	-	532,300	532,300	-
Total - Appropriated Funds	13,723,774	34,533,913	33,573,891	55,111,046	55,121,130	56,293,346	1,172,216

Account	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor
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Policy Revisions

Provide Funding for the Bridgeport's Brightest Program

Various Grants	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
Total - General Fund	-	1,000,000	1,000,000

Background

The University of Bridgeport administers the Bridgeport's Brightest program to cap tuition, room, and board for eligible Bridgeport high school graduates. The University caps tuition at \$7,000 for commuter students, and \$12,500 students living on campus.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$1 million in FY 27 to the University of Bridgeport for the Bridgeport's Brightest program.

Account	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor
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Appendix A identifies the FY 27 recipients of legislatively directed funds. Adjustments to funding amounts or recipient allocations contained in the FY 27 Revised Budget are detailed at the end of the agency's budget sheets.

Reduce Funding for Student Loan Reimbursement Program

CT Loan Reimbursement	-	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)
Total - General Fund	-	(1,000,000)	(1,000,000)

Background

The Student Loan Reimbursement Program provides grants of up to \$5,000 annually for up to four years to eligible Connecticut residents. The grants are reimbursements for student loan payments. To receive a grant, recipients must: (1) have outstanding student loans; (2) have graduated from an in-state college or university, hold an occupational or professional license, or have attended Stone Academy under certain circumstances; (3) meet certain income requirements; and (4) perform at least 50 hours of volunteer work during each year they receive a grant (unless they receive a hardship waiver).

Legislative

Reduce funding by \$1 million in FY 27 for the Student Loan Reimbursement Program to achieve savings.

Transfer Office of the Student Loan Ombudsperson from the Department of Banking to OHE

Personal Services	279,800	279,800	-
Other Expenses	30,000	30,000	-
Fringe Benefits	222,500	222,500	-
Total - Banking Fund	532,300	532,300	-
Positions - Banking Fund	3	3	-

Background

PA 15-162 established the Student Loan Ombudsperson within the Department of Banking (DOB) to analyze laws and policies at the federal, state, and local level that impact student loan borrowers and to make recommendations. The Ombudsperson also assists borrowers with complaints and other borrowing-related issues.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$532,300 and three positions in FY 27 from DOB to the Office of Higher Education for the Office of the Student Loan Ombudsperson. Funding and positions remain within the Banking Fund.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Maintain Legislative Grants

Various Grants	(472,216)	-	472,216
Total - General Fund	(472,216)	-	472,216

Governor

Reduce the Various Grants account by \$472,216 in FY 27 to reflect a reduction to legislative grants.

Legislative

Maintain funding for legislative grants.

Appendix A identifies the FY 27 recipients of legislatively directed funds. Adjustments to funding amounts or recipient allocations contained in the FY 27 Revised Budget are detailed at the end of the agency's budget sheets.

Provide Funding for Promise Programs

Various Grants	-	400,000	400,000
Total - General Fund	-	400,000	400,000

Background

Promise programs provide financial, academic, and other support to undergraduate college students, and high school students who wish to attend college, who meet certain criteria. The programs can be funded via public or private funding and typically serve students from low-income areas. There are currently four Promise programs in Connecticut: Bridgeport, Hartford, New Haven, and Waterbury.

Section 382 of PA 26-68, the FY 27 Revised Budget, as amended by PA 26-76 requires the Office of Higher Education to hire a consultant to support the creation of new Promise programs in the state, with the goal of establishing eight new programs by January 1, 2031.

Account	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor
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Legislative

Provide funding of \$400,000 in FY 27 to hire a consultant to support the expansion of Promise programs in the state.

Provide Funding for Alternate Route to Certification

Alternate Route to Certification	-	300,000	300,000
Total - General Fund	-	300,000	300,000

Background

Alternate Route to Certification (ARC) is a nine-month program for adults who want to become teachers. Courses are held in-person and online and include Foundations of Teaching, classroom management, differentiated instruction, lesson planning, student assessment, and special education. The program also includes a 40-day in-school practicum.

Legislative

Provide funding of \$300,000 in FY 27 for ARC. Funding will support costs related to accreditation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Transfer Legislative Grants to a Separate Account

Other Expenses	(2,361,083)	(2,361,083)	-
Various Grants	2,361,083	2,361,083	-
Total - General Fund	-	-	-

Governor

Transfer funding of \$2,361,083 from the Other Expenses account to the Various Grants account in FY 27.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Appendix A identifies the FY 27 recipients of legislatively directed funds. Adjustments to funding amounts or recipient allocations contained in the FY 27 Revised Budget are detailed at the end of the agency's budget sheets.

Transfer Additional Funding for Legislative Grants to the Various Grants Account

Other Expenses	-	(552,009)	(552,009)
Various Grants	-	552,009	552,009
Total - General Fund	-	-	-

Legislative

Transfer funding of \$552,009 in FY 27 from Other Expenses to Various Grants to consolidate all legislative grants funding within OHE into the Various Grants account.

Appendix A identifies the FY 27 recipients of legislatively directed funds. Adjustments to funding amounts or recipient allocations contained in the FY 27 Revised Budget are detailed at the end of the agency's budget sheets.

Transfer Funding for Open Educational Resources Council

Other Expenses	(50,000)	(50,000)	-
Total - General Fund	(50,000)	(50,000)	-

Background

PA 19-117 established the Open Educational Resources Coordinating Council. The statewide body includes representatives from Connecticut's public and private institutions of higher education. The council's goal is to promote and support the adoption of Open Educational Resources (OER) which are free online and openly licensed instructional materials. The council focuses on "high impact" course areas that see the largest enrollments and also involve the highest textbook costs. PA 25-168, the FY 26 and FY 27 Budget, provided funding of \$50,000 in both FY 26 and FY 27 for this initiative.

Governor

Transfer funding of \$50,000 in FY 27 for the Open Educational Resources Coordinating Council to the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities.

Legislative

Same as Governor

Appendix A identifies the FY 27 recipients of legislatively directed funds. Adjustments to funding amounts or recipient allocations contained in the FY 27 Revised Budget are detailed at the end of the agency's budget sheets.

Totals

Budget Components	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor
Original Appropriation - GF	55,111,046	55,111,046	-
Policy Revisions	(522,216)	650,000	1,172,216
Total Recommended - GF	54,588,830	55,761,046	1,172,216
Original Appropriation - BF	-	-	-
Policy Revisions	532,300	532,300	-
Total Recommended - BF	532,300	532,300	-

Positions	Governor Revised FY 27	Legislative FY 27	Difference from Governor
Original Appropriation - GF	28	28	-
Total Recommended - GF	28	28	-
Original Appropriation - BF	-	-	-
Policy Revisions	3	3	-
Total Recommended - BF	3	3	-

FY 27 Revisions to Legislatively Directed Funds

Grantee by Account	Purpose	FY 27 Original	FY 27 Revised	FY 27 Total
GENERAL FUND				
Various Grants				
University of Bridgeport	Bridgeport's Brightest Program	-	1,000,000	1,000,000