

FY 2010 QUESTION NUMBER: 16

QUESTION:

What is the total special education enrollment projection for FY 2010? Why is there a projected increase 600 special education students and how was this projection determined?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: N/A

ANSWER:

The special education enrollment forecast for FY 2010 is 9,107. This is a decrease of 199 students from the FY 2009 forecast of 9,306. These forecasts represent students with more than 15 hours of service per week.

The official FY 2009 enrollment for special education students was 8,534 on September 30, 2008. Based on prior year trends in special education enrollment, which showed enrollment close to 8,900 in 2006 and 2007, it is believed that this official count was understated and that some students who should have been included in this count were included in the general education enrollment.

The low number of special education students reported on September 30, 2008, is related to a changeover in the process for enrolling special education students in a new database, called ENCORE. Efforts have been underway since September to correct enrollment reporting and ensure accuracy. In the future it is anticipated that there will be more unified enrollment reporting. This will improve the process of enrolling all students and accurately reporting the numbers.