

Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR)

As part of the State of Texas budget process, the Legislative Appropriations Request (LAR) is the bridge between the development of the state agency's strategic plan and the General Appropriations Act (GAA), providing a fiscal expression of each agency's priorities. It is the formal request for funding made by each state agency and institution. The LAR includes quantitative information such as projected performance, projected cost, and methods of financing proposed for state services. In addition, information provided is related to narrative language which is integral to preparation of the GAA. The administrator's statement highlights significant changes in policy, provisions of service and purpose of new funding requests.

The LAR is divided into two components, the "baseline" request and requests for consideration of "exceptional items", which are desired services in addition to the baseline request. The "baseline" request refers to a budget request that is at the lowest level.

Because the State of Texas budget is a biennial budget, the LAR is prepared to cover a 2 year time period. Each agency prepares and submits an LAR during even numbered years, prior to the start of the legislative session. During the following months, the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) and the Governor's Office of Budgeting, Planning and Policy (GOBPP) hold hearings with each agency concerning the agency's strategic plan and LAR. LAR's must be submitted by a specified deadline, usually summer or early fall, and copies must be provided to the LBB, GOBPP, the State Auditor's Office, the Office of the Comptroller of Public Accounts and other state agencies as specified. The summation of each institution's LAR forms the basis for the appropriations bill prepared by the LBB.

Steps in the State of Texas planning and appropriations process:

1. Statewide Vision from the Governor
2. Strategic Plans (State agency mission and philosophy)
3. Legislative Appropriations Request (State agency action plans, outcomes and request for funding)
4. Appropriations bill
5. Performance monitoring

Higher education receives approximately 12.6% of the State of Texas' \$172 billion budget (2012-2013 funding). A chart illustrating the allocation of the entire State of Budget for 2012-2013 is on the back of this factsheet.

Additional links:

- Budget 101: A Guide to the Budget Process in Texas (2011)
http://www.senate.state.tx.us/SRC/pdf/Budget_101-2011.pdf
- LAR 2012-2013 Instructions: <http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/LAR/LAR.htm>
- TAMU 2012-2013 LAR: <http://www.tamus.edu/offices/budget-acct/lar/fy1213/>

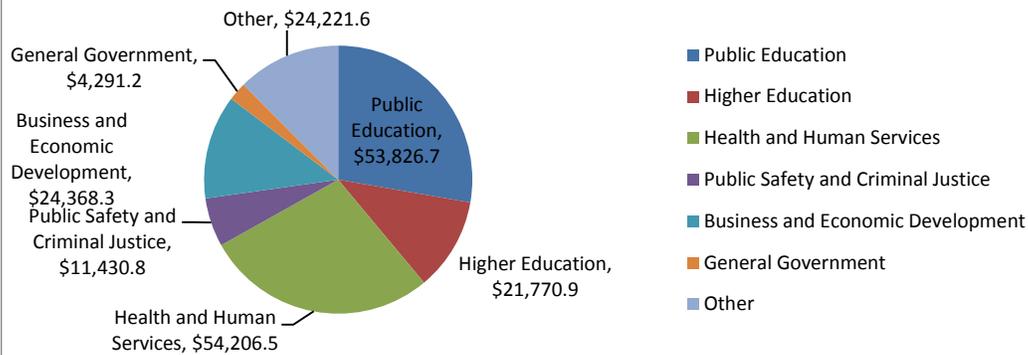
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State of Texas 2012-2013 Budget, All Funds \$172,345.1 M

In Millions



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