

The Agency

Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority WSBE-TV/Channel 36

Agency Operations

The Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority is the owner and license holder for WSBE-TV & WSBE-DT Rhode Island PBS, Rhode Island's public television station. WSBE broadcasts 111 hours per week and is headed by the President and Chief Executive Officer who is responsible for all activities, including private fundraising, which partially supports the Authority's budget.

WSBE-TV provides life-long learning opportunities to all Rhode Islanders, regardless of their ability to pay, through its programming and outreach services. Approximately 98,000 K-12 school children are served by 4.5 hours daily of in-school instructional programming that enhances and augments classroom learning. Other educational programming includes science and nature, documentaries, performing arts, history and music. A wide range of how-to programs enable adult viewers to develop skills in computers, painting, automotive repair, sewing, cooking, home improvement and other practical topics. The mandate to provide training in telecommunications is fulfilled through the internship programs in the production and technical areas. There are currently seven student interns employed at WSBE.

WSBE also provides "Learning Link," an interactive, computer-based telecommunications system connecting schools and libraries across the state, providing forums, national and international gateways, databases and Internet access, serving students and teachers in Rhode Island. WSBE manages and maintains a program, available to every K-12 student around the state, that brings inter-active educational video into the classrooms via the Internet. This program is a full-fledged educational offering and is underwritten with private funding.

WSBE is helping to fulfill and maintain its number one mission of educating, to ensure that children are prepared to learn when they enter school, through pre-school program services and related outreach programs. Outreach programs include literacy, AIDS education, domestic violence and other topics of community concern.

Public affairs programs are aired to increase awareness of community problems and issues, and to help our citizens learn about and cope with an increasingly complex world around them.

Agency Objectives

Educate, inform, enlighten and entertain. Provide educational services to all citizens regardless of their ability to pay for services.

Statutory History

Title 16, Chapter 61 of the Rhode Island General Laws established the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority and defines the duties of its President and Chief Executive Officer.

The Budget

Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority WSBE - TV/Channel 36

	FY 2008 Actual	FY 2009 Actual	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2010 Revised	FY 2011 Recommended
Expenditures By Object					
Personnel	1,930,377	1,804,222	1,844,858	1,586,524	1,642,594
Operating Supplies and Expenses	184,193	119,053	63,500	37,057	32,390
Aid To Local Units Of Government	-	-	-	-	-
Assistance, Grants and Benefits	-	-	-	-	-
Subtotal: Operating Expenditures	\$2,114,570	\$1,923,275	\$1,908,358	\$1,623,581	\$1,674,984
Capital Purchases and Equipment	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-
Operating Transfers	-	-	-	-	-
Total Expenditures	\$2,114,570	\$1,923,275	\$1,908,358	\$1,623,581	\$1,674,984
Expenditures By Funds					
General Revenue	1,316,196	1,206,333	1,142,702	1,009,552	1,038,234
Other Funds	798,374	716,942	765,656	614,029	636,750
Total Expenditures	\$2,114,570	\$1,923,275	\$1,908,358	\$1,623,581	\$1,674,984
FTE Authorization					
	20.0	18.0	18.0	16.0	16.0
Agency Measures					
Minorities as a Percentage of the Workforce	20.0%	20.0%	15.8%	15.8%	17.7%
Females as a Percentage of the Workforce	25.0%	25.0%	15.8%	15.8%	17.7%
Persons with Disabilities as a Percentage of the Workforce	-	-	-	-	-
Program Measures					
Average Annual Household Viewership of WSBE-TV/Rhode Island PBS Programs					
Weekday Daytime	64	69	77	77	85
Primetime	59	64	71	71	79
All Day	123	120	132	132	145