

Teacher Pipeline Initiative Partnerships for Rural Educator Preparation

Legislation would be brought forward in the 2019 session to implement three programs to help address the critical teacher shortage in Idaho's rural schools and school districts*. These programs would be administered by the State Department of Education in coordination with the State Board of Education. The programs would be funded beginning in Fiscal Year 2020 and would be implemented for the 2019-2020 school year.

Grow Your Own

This program would involve partnership agreements between the State Department of Education, the State Board of Education and partnering school districts. The program would require an individual to be enrolled at a participating higher education institution, be employed with a rural school district in a teaching position (teacher of record, paraprofessional, provisional). The program would pay for up to the student's last 40 credits of course work. In exchange for payment of tuition, the individual would commit to work in the same school or district for three (3) years after completion. This program would be limited to 25 new students annually, with a limit on the number of grants distributed to each school or district. Grants would be prioritized based on schools or districts experiencing a teacher shortage in a grade level or content area. Fiscal Impact \$500,000 annually. Five (5) year sunset clause.

Rural Teacher Fellowship

This would create a teacher fellowship program for individuals enrolled in an Idaho public postsecondary teacher preparation program who commit to teach in a rural school or district for two (2) years following completion of the fellowship. The Department of Education would identify geographic areas within the state and specific content areas where shortages exist. The program would provide \$10,000 to each fellow to use for costs of attendance during the fellowship year, with 60 percent of the cost provided by the state and 40 percent provided by the participating institution of higher education. The program would accommodate up to 50 students. Fiscal Impact \$300,000 annually. Five (5) year sunset clause.

Certification and Retention Bonus

This would provide a \$6,000 stipend for up to 30 teachers completing the required course work leading to certification or completing an approved alternative licensure program leading to initial certification and full-time employment in a rural school or school district (including charter schools). Stipends could be used to cover tuition and other costs associated with an institution of higher education or alternative licensure program approved by the State Board of Education. Individuals receiving the stipend would commit to teaching in the specific district for three (3) years. Fiscal Impact \$180,000 annually. Five (5) year sunset clause.

*School district includes public charter schools.