

# Empowering Parents Parent Advisory Panel

## Recommendations to the State Board of Education

September 11, 2023

<b>1.0</b>	<b>APPEALS PROCESS</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Idaho Code § 33-1031(3) – Barred Household Appeal to the Board</b> Grantees that purchased an item from the marketplace that is later deemed ineligible should be allowed back into the program.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>CONTRACTOR</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Vendor Approval Process</b> a. Streamline the vendor approval process and allow parents to suggest vendors or apply for vendors on their behalf.
<b>2.2</b>	<b>Enhance Vendor Offerings to Address Learning Loss</b> a. Prioritize offering services specific to addressing student learning loss.
<b>2.3</b>	<b>Expand Vendor Services Available to Rural and Remote Communities</b> a. Expand vendor services available to rural and remote communities beyond physical education classes and enhanced broadband service.
<b>2.4</b>	<b>Expand Vendor Services to Out of State Vendors Providing Educational Services</b> a. Allow parents to select out of state vendors offering <b>in-person</b> educational enrichment opportunities. b. Allow parents to select out of state vendors offering educational enrichment opportunities through a <b>virtual</b> platform.
<b>2.5</b>	<b>Local Education Agencies</b> a. State Board of Education staff and Idaho School Boards Association work together to encourage all Idaho Local Education Agencies to become vendors in the marketplace.
<b>2.6</b>	<b>Vendor Review Process</b> a. Work with the contractor to implement a vendor review process for parents or patrons of the program to review vendors in the marketplace.
<b>2.7</b>	<b>Vendor Relations</b> a. Enhance communication between the contractor and vendors.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Residency</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Students must reside in Idaho to access Empowering Parents grant funds.</li> </ul>
<b>3.2</b>	<b>Annual Timeline</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adjust the program timeline to align with the start of the school year to allow parents to access funds earlier in the school year, with no negative impact to current participants.</li> </ul>
<b>3.3</b>	<b>Awards</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Move faster through the awards process.</li> <li>b. Shorten the duration between waves.</li> </ul>
<b>3.4</b>	<b>Program Caps</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Allow all eligible students (K-12) within a household to use the grant funds awarded to the household.</li> <li>b. Maintain the annual household award at three (3) per household.</li> <li>c. Maintain the annual Empowering Parents grant award at \$1,000 per eligible student.</li> </ul>
<b>3.5</b>	<b>Program Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Increase the number of FTE supporting the Empowering Parents Program by at least one FTE.</li> </ul>
<b>3.6</b>	<b>Expenditure of Funds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Current grant recipients shall have one (1) additional year to spend grant awards.</li> <li>b. Develop a process to allow unspent grant funds to be returned to the State should a participant elect not to use the entirety of the grant.</li> </ul>
<b>3.7</b>	<b>Two-Household Families<sup>33</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Create a policy for two-household families which includes verification that the Empowering Parents award is granted to the parent with authority to make educational decisions for the respective child.</li> </ul>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>ELIGIBLE EXPENSES</b>
<b>4.1</b>	<p data-bbox="338 175 1913 240"><b>Idaho Code § 33-1030(f) – Other education expenses and services as approved by the Board, upon recommendation of the Parent Advisory Panel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="422 248 1829 313">a. Educational camps and classes offered for a fee, but reserve the right for the State Board of Education to deny any classes they deem inappropriate.</li> <li data-bbox="422 321 1835 386">b. Non-technological education equipment that may be necessary to facilitate a student’s participation in educational activities (i.e. backpacks, computer cases, and tools for science labs).</li> <li data-bbox="422 394 1881 427">c. Fees associated with homeschool educational services tuition, including co-ops or whatever setting the family chooses.</li> <li data-bbox="422 435 1814 500">d. Physical education equipment, gear, uniforms, or pay-to-play fees required for participation in physical education activities.</li> <li data-bbox="422 508 1892 605">e. Educational programs or extracurricular activities offered for a fee or pursuant to contract by a school district, public charter school, or career technical education program to any students, provided that such students may not be counted for purposes of calculating public school enrollment.</li> <li data-bbox="422 613 974 646">f. Musical instruments and tutoring services.</li> <li data-bbox="422 654 1892 719">g. Costumes and uniforms – clothing necessary to facilitate participation in an educational camp, class, or event (i.e. dance uniforms, karate uniforms, or camp t-shirts).</li> </ul>
<b>4.2</b>	<p data-bbox="338 763 548 792"><b>Reimbursements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="422 800 1056 833">a. Allow direct reimbursement for internet services.</li> <li data-bbox="422 841 1604 873">b. Establish a process for reimbursement under what the Board finds feasible within their abilities.</li> </ul>