

2018 Legislative Session

Summary of K-12 Legislation, Rulemaking, and Appropriation Changes

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Actions are categorized by subject matter and color coded based on type of action. Each action category may include bills, rules, and/or appropriations.

House and Senate bills make changes to Idaho Code. To review all 2018 bills, visit:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2018/legislation>.

Rule dockets make changes to the Idaho Administrative Procedure Act (IDAPA) under the rulemaking authority of the state board of education. To review 2018 rule changes in their entirety, visit https://adminrules.idaho.gov/legislative_books/2018 and navigate to Education Committee. All current administrative rules may be reviewed at:

<https://adminrules.idaho.gov/rules/current/08/index.html>.

Appropriations show increases in the base public school support program budget or the superintendent of public instruction's budget.

ADVANCED OPPORTUNITIES

Senate Bill 1292: Made minor additions to the requirements for dual credit courses, including that the courses be eligible for college credit (are not remedial) and that a student must first identify postsecondary educational goals before earning more than 15 postsecondary credits while still enrolled in high school. Also removed the counties from the process through which community colleges are reimbursed for providing credits to students out of their taxing district.

Appropriation: \$8 million increase for Advanced Opportunities.

ADVISING

Appropriation: \$2 million increase for college and career advising.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Senate Bill 1212: Added grades seven and eight to the approved career technical school programs. These programs would be eligible for added-cost funds.

Docket 08-0202-1708: Clarified some occupational certification requirements and provided additional options for receiving occupational specialist certification within existing routes.

CERTIFICATION

Docket 08-0202-1701: Contained annual Professional Standards Commission rulemaking.

- Regular PSC review of educator preparation standards.
- Added pupil personnel services endorsements for occupational therapists and physical therapists. Districts and charters may choose whether to require that occupational or physical therapists on staff be certificated.
- Added a School Counselor – Basic endorsement for individuals with a license in social work serving as school counselors pursuant to 33-1212, Idaho Code.
- Revised background check rules in accordance with changes made to 33-130, Idaho Code during the 2017 legislative session.

Docket 08-0202-1705: Clarified the competencies that must be included in an approved course used to meet the Idaho framework for teachers' evaluation training requirement for an administrator certificate renewal. Competencies must include understanding professional practice in Idaho evaluation requirements and understanding student achievement and growth in the Idaho evaluation framework.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Docket 08-0204-1701: Amended charter application requirements in rule in accordance with House Bill 279 in 2017, which streamlined the petitioning process in statute, adjusting timelines and removing the state department of education's sufficiency review.

Docket 08-0301-1701: Removed charter petition guidelines from rule in accordance with House Bill 279 in 2017.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

House Bill 648: Will require all school districts and charters to offer a computer science course in high school during the normal instructional day beginning in the 2020-21 school year.

CONTENT STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS

Docket 08-0203-1703: Replaced the Extended Content Standards with the Content Standards Core Content Connectors, used for the 1% of students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Docket 08-0203-1705: Revised Idaho Content Standards for Science, Information and Computer Technology, and Driver Education.

Docket 08-0203-1708: Revised Idaho's English Language Proficiency Assessment Achievement Standards (cut scores) in accordance with WIDA consortium recommendations.

Docket 08-0203-1711: Revised Idaho's Alternate Assessment Achievement Standards (cut scores) in accordance with the new Idaho Content Standards Core Content Connectors.

Appropriation: Approximately \$1 million for the development of a new science assessment.

ELECTIONS

Senate Bill 1280: Moved trustee elections from May in odd years to November in odd years.

House Bill 620: Codified that public entities may educate but not advocate regarding bond elections. School district employees and board members may disseminate information on bond elections using public funds, however they may not advocate for an election outcome in their official capacities or with public funds.

House Bill 626: Added a requirement that, in a taxing district bond election, the ballot will include a disclosure statement indicating the term of the bond and the anticipated average annual tax increase per \$100,000 of property value.

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Appropriation: \$1 million increase to support English Learner instruction.

Appropriation: \$1 million increase for English Learner curriculum.

EVALUATION

Docket 08-0202-1705: Added additional clarifications for teacher evaluations, including that:

- For pupil service staff, criteria shall be aligned with the profession's national standards.
- Domain and/or component ratings may be weighted based on the individual's individualized professional learning plan.
- All school and school district administrators must receive an evaluation annually.
- Credits taken for recertification must be educationally related to the individualized professional learning plan or related to the professional practice of the applicant.
- Recertification credits must be taken during the validity period of the current certificate.
- At least one documented summative evaluation must include a rating for all components of the applicable professional standards used for evaluation.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Senate Bill 1266: Removes the only reference in Idaho Code to the senior year math requirement, which was found in 33-512C, Idaho Code. This legislation does not remove the senior year math requirement for any student. Graduation requirements have not changed.

Docket 08-0203-1702: Added provisions to the college entrance exam (CEE) graduation requirement to clarify participation requirements, address extenuating circumstances and remove the discontinued Compass assessment.

- Per IEP team decision, students with an active IEP may utilize the ACCUPLACER to meet the CEE requirement.
- Students entering an Idaho high school in 11th grade that missed the primary and makeup SAT School Day, who also did not previously take an approved CEE exam, may participate in SAT School Day in grade 12.
- Students with significant cognitive disabilities who meet the alternate assessment criteria are exempt from the CEE rule.
- School districts may appeal to the superintendent of public instruction on behalf of a student to explain an extenuating circumstance and request a waiver from the CEE. These are rare cases.

LITERACY

Appropriation: Additional \$283,800, for a total of \$550,000, to implement the new Idaho Reading Indicator statewide and provide professional development to school districts and charters.

Appropriation: Additional \$1.7 million for literacy intervention.

PUBLIC EDUCATION STABILIZATION FUND

Appropriation: \$32 million cash transfer from the General Fund to PESF.

REPRESENTATION

House Bill 580: Made permanent in Idaho Code the ability of local districts and charters to hire spouses of board members under certain circumstances.

House Bill 647: Requires a local education organization to show within the last two years that it represents at least 50 percent plus one of the local professional employees in order for the organization to represent local educators in collective bargaining.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Senate Bill 1294: Added the Idaho Bureau of Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind as a beneficiary of the Safe and Drug Free Schools program.

House Bill 443: Encourages school districts and charters to offer elective firearm safety courses for students.

House Bill 634: Directs the state department of education and the state board of education to provide resources for school districts and charters to aid in suicide prevention efforts.

House Bill 665: Provides for a misdemeanor charge to willful threats of violence directed at schools, regardless of point of origin, including by electronic means of communication. Also provides for a felony charge if a person is found in possession of dangerous weapons in the furtherance of carrying out threat and after first having made such a threat.

TEACHER PAY, DISCRETIONARY, AND FUNDING FORMULA

Senate Bill 1263: Changed the calculation for a K-12 public educator's sick leave contribution to PERSI at the time of retirement. The calculation now uses the educator's highest rate of pay instead of the rate of pay at time of retirement.

House Bill 503: Allows the SDE to place occupational therapists and physical therapists on the career ladder in accordance with their years of service in a school while holding the appropriate occupational license.

House Bill 632: Increased the minimum distribution to districts and charters for the college and career advising line item commensurate with the \$2 million increase in the appropriation.

House Concurrent Resolution 49: Authorizes the interim public school funding formula committee for a third year.

Appropriation: \$41.7 million increase for year four of the five-year phase in of the career ladder compensation system.

Appropriation: \$15.9 million increase in discretionary funding, for a total of \$27,481 in discretionary funds per support unit, or a 2.7% increase.

Appropriation: \$7 million for a 3% base salary increase for administrators and classified staff.

TECHNOLOGY

Senate Bill 1278: Removed outdated wireless technology standards from code and tasked the Education Opportunity Resource Committee (EORC) with recommending wireless technology standards to the state department of education. These standards assist districts and charters in knowing the specifications to expect from vendors when procuring wireless infrastructure.

Appropriation: \$10.5 million increase in funding for classroom technology, which includes wireless technology.

For Questions Contact:

Duncan Robb | Chief Policy Advisor
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Idaho State Department of Education
drobb@sde.idaho.gov | (208) 332-6954

2019 Agenda of Legislative Priorities

Looking Ahead to Next Year

KEEPING IDAHO STUDENTS SAFE

The state department of education (SDE) is committed to supporting schools in creating safe and supportive learning environments for every student in Idaho. Social and emotional wellness are prerequisites for academic success. In addition to ongoing current efforts to support districts in this area, Superintendent Ybarra is launching the Keeping Idaho Students Safe (KISS) initiative to do even more in assuring that every student in Idaho feels safe at school. The initiative includes:

- **School Safety Course** – The SDE is designing a 3 credit course (45 hours) focused on protecting students and addressing risk behaviors. The initial vision is for this course to be required for teacher and administrator recertification (required every five years) and will be offered 25 times a year throughout the state.
- **Security Grant for Schools** – The SDE is focused on securing funds for all Idaho schools to have a trained security presence. While School Resource Officers (SROs) commonly fill this role, lack of resources, both human and financial, is a barrier to establishing this presence throughout the state. These individuals may be SROs, retired military, law enforcement, or private security.
- **Statewide Crisis Communications Counselor** – This position would be housed in the SDE and serve as the single point of contact for school counselors for support in addressing student social and emotional issues. This position will serve as a dedicated lifeline for threats to schools as a way to quickly leverage resources at the state level.

MASTERY EDUCATION TO SUPPORT RURAL SCHOOLS

The SDE continues its efforts to support rural schools. During the summer and fall, the Superintendent will seek out feedback from stakeholders to continue the discussion around rural school support, and specifically target how expanding mastery education can help to alleviate frequent challenges that Idaho's rural school districts experience. Recommendations from stakeholders will inform the Superintendent's legislation that will come forward for the 2019 legislative session.