

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 70

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATION; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AND
2 AMENDING TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 47, TITLE
3 33, IDAHO CODE, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF STEM PROGRAM
4 AND STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATIONS, TO ESTABLISH CRITERIA AND DURATION FOR
5 DESIGNATIONS, TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE AND TO AU-
6 THORIZE RULEMAKING.
7

8 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to
10 encourage and support schools in developing comprehensive science, technol-
11 ogy, engineering and math (STEM) learning environments for their students
12 by establishing criteria for schools to earn a STEM school designation that
13 will serve as an indicator for parents and students who are looking for STEM
14 school experiences in Idaho. A STEM designation will be based on evidence
15 that the school will offer a rigorous, diverse, integrated and project-based
16 curriculum to students, with the goal of preparing those students for post-
17 secondary education, the workforce and citizenship.

18 SECTION 2. That Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended
19 by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chap-
20 ter 47, Title 33, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

21 CHAPTER 47
22 STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATION

23 33-4701. STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (1) As used in
24 this section:

25 (a) "STEM" means comprehensive science, technology, engineering and
26 mathematics.

27 (b) "STEM instruction" means multidisciplinary science, technology,
28 engineering and mathematics instruction.

29 (c) "STEM school designation" and "STEM program designation" mean the
30 designations earned by meeting the criteria as established in this sec-
31 tion.

32 (d) "STEM program" means a course of study, institute or academy within
33 a school that is multigrade and multidiscipline consisting of STEM in-
34 struction.

35 (2) The state board of education shall award STEM school and STEM pro-
36 gram designations annually to those public schools and public school pro-
37 grams that meet the standards established by the state board of education in
38 collaboration with the STEM action center.

39 (3) To be eligible to apply for a STEM designation, the school must meet
40 the standards and application requirements established by the state board of
41 education and the STEM action center, including the following:

1 (a) Be a current public school in Idaho that serves students in kinder-
2 garten through grade 12, or a subset of grades between kindergarten and
3 grade 12;

4 (b) Apply to the STEM action center for a STEM school designation review
5 to include evaluation of the following:

6 (i) STEM instruction and curriculum focused on problem-solv-
7 ing, student involvement in team-driven project-based learning,
8 and engineering design process;

9 (ii) College and career exposure, exploration and advising;

10 (iii) Relevant professional learning opportunities for staff;

11 (iv) Community and family involvement;

12 (v) Integration of technology and physical resources to support
13 STEM instruction;

14 (vi) Collaboration with institutions of higher education and in-
15 dustry;

16 (vii) Capacity to capture and share knowledge for best practices
17 and innovative professional development with the STEM action cen-
18 ter; and

19 (viii) Support of nontraditional and historically underserved
20 student populations in STEM program areas.

21 (c) Adopt a plan of STEM implementation that includes, but is not lim-
22 ited to, how the school and district integrate proven best practices
23 into non-STEM courses and practices and how lessons learned are shared
24 with other schools within the district and throughout the state.

25 (4) The STEM action center board shall make recommendations annually to
26 the state board of education for the award of a STEM school designation.

27 (5) STEM designations shall be valid for a term of five (5) school
28 years. At the end of each designation term, a school may apply to renew its
29 STEM designation. Schools may apply to expand a STEM program designation to
30 a STEM school designation, in alignment with established deadlines, at any
31 time during the term of the STEM program designation.

32 (6) The STEM action center and the state board of education shall pro-
33 vide a report to the legislature annually on the implementation of this chap-
34 ter.

35 (7) The state board of education may promulgate rules for the adminis-
36 tration and implementation of this chapter.