

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1153

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO SCHOOL FUNDS; AMENDING CHAPTER 9, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-911, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING TEACHER SPENDING ACCOUNTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

SECTION 1. That Chapter 9, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-911, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-911. TEACHER SPENDING ACCOUNTS. (1) Subject to appropriation, moneys shall be made available to provide funds directly to eligible classroom teachers to make allowable classroom educational expenses on behalf of the local school district or public charter school to address student education needs, individual classroom needs, and instructional goals.

(2) For purposes of this section, "eligible classroom teacher" means a teacher who holds an Idaho certificate issued under section 33-1201, Idaho Code, and who is involved in the direct instruction of a student or group of students.

(3) Funds appropriated under this section shall be used only for classroom supplies and materials and may not be expended for administrative purposes. If the purpose of an expense is in question, the state department of education will determine whether the expense qualifies as eligible. Funds from this section shall supplement, not supplant, local and state funding.

(4) To determine the allocation of funds, the state department of education shall calculate an amount for each eligible classroom teacher and distribute the funds as follows:

(a) On or before September 1 of each year, each school district or public charter school shall determine and submit to the state department of education a roster of the eligible classroom teachers for the current school year. The roster shall include the first name, last name, school, and school-assigned email address for each eligible teacher; and

(b) On or before September 30 of each year, the state department of education shall electronically distribute the allocated amount of classroom supply funds to each eligible classroom teacher.

(5) The state department of education shall utilize an administrative system for maintaining rosters of eligible classroom teachers for each district and public charter school, allocating funds to eligible classroom teachers through a digital wallet, reporting on the use of funds for classroom purposes, and verifying compliance with this section. The administrative system must be capable of:

- 1 (a) Restricting purchases to allowable classroom educational expenses
2 from an electronic marketplace and allowing teachers to submit receipts
3 and request reimbursements;
4 (b) Allowing for immediate review and authorization of purchases; and
5 (c) Creating reports of purchases in real-time.
6 (6) Each school district or public charter school shall designate a
7 point of contact to maintain a current roster of eligible teachers within the
8 system.
9 (7) For the purposes of this section, "allowable classroom educational
10 expenses" include:
11 (a) Classroom materials and supplies with an educational purpose to
12 be used in the instruction of students, including books, posters, or
13 charts related to instruction, supplemental materials, special educa-
14 tional materials, and physical education supplies;
15 (b) Supplies utilized on a regular basis in the classroom, including
16 paper goods, cleaning supplies, hand soap and sanitizer, tissues, writ-
17 ing utensils, and arts and crafts supplies;
18 (c) Technological equipment, including only software, calculators,
19 personal computers, laptops, tablet devices, microscopes, telescopes,
20 laminators, and printers;
21 (d) Classroom storage and organizational products;
22 (e) White boards, chalk boards, or bulletin boards; and
23 (f) Professional development courses to increase content knowledge and
24 skills relevant to instruction.
25 (8) Funds appropriated under this section shall be expended during the
26 fiscal year in which such moneys were distributed to the eligible classroom
27 teacher. Any funds not expended at the end of the fiscal year shall revert
28 back to the state.

29 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
30 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
31 July 1, 2023.