

Honorable Chairman Mortimer and members of the committee:

Thank you for your service and for the opportunity to introduce you to Northwest Professional Educators, a nonprofit, nonunion, professional educators' organization that has been serving Idaho's educators for the past ten years. NWPE is a union alternative organization. We focus solely on serving educators who place students as their highest priority and improving the professionalism of education. Membership is open to all educators of any education entity including teachers, administrators, and support staff.

NWPE is a state chapter of the Association of American Educators (AAE). AAE is the largest national nonunion educators' organization with members in all fifty states. Three National Teachers of the Year serve on AAE's board. AAE serves as the leader of the Coalition of Independent Education Associations which is over 350,000 members strong nationwide.

Beliefs. Together with the AAE, Northwest Professional Educators holds that public education will be improved if: **1)** We always remember that our first duty is to the student; **2)** We aim to develop a young person's character as well as his or her intellect; **3)** Our schools are free from strikes or any other work stoppage tactics or coercive threats; **4)** Educators are free from all forms of compulsory membership and are not forced to join or otherwise pay dues to a labor union in order to teach or hold membership in a local or state association; and, **5)** Public schools are accountable to their local communities.

Professional Services. NWPE provides liability insurance and legal services for employment rights issues. We do not negotiate contracts. We provide teacher scholarships and classroom grants, professional development resources, newsletters on education trends and issues, and social media networking, among other benefits that advance our members as academic professionals.

A Voice for Educators. NWPE does not contribute member dues to political organizations or to advance issues unrelated to education. This keeps our dues very reasonable, under \$200 per year. Our association is unique in that we are truly member driven. We ask ALL members for their views on education issues prior to taking a position on an education issue and communicating those views to policy makers. Our member survey results are being compiled so that you can be informed of their' views on career ladder, tiered licensure, pre-K education, class size, school choice, and other important issues.

We do not negotiate contracts but are supportive of a teacher's choice to collectively bargain. Teachers in a modern workforce do not necessarily need one-size-fits-all salary and benefits packages that do little to recognize teachers who go above and beyond in their schools. However, NWPE supports educators' collective bargaining privileges if they choose that route. Many of our members are members of both NWPE and a union. Additionally, many members have been, and some currently are, leaders and officers in their local teacher associations.

NWPE Supports Teacher Choice. As Mr. Terry Ryan shared with you recently, choice is revolutionizing education. NWPE supports choices that benefit both students and teachers. Teachers deserve a choice of associations that are tailored to meet their personal beliefs and budgets. When teachers freely exercise choice, the democratic ideals freedom of speech, freedom of association, diversity, pluralism and freedom of inquiry are advanced. As a choice for the education employees of Idaho, Northwest Professional Educators seeks to advance mutual respect, cooperation, and the exchange of ideas for the sake of our students and for advancing educators as academic professionals. We support the state's right to work statute which helps make teacher choice possible.

Thank you for this time. I'd be happy to take any questions you might have.

Idaho Digital Learning

Senate Education Presentation
January 27, 2015

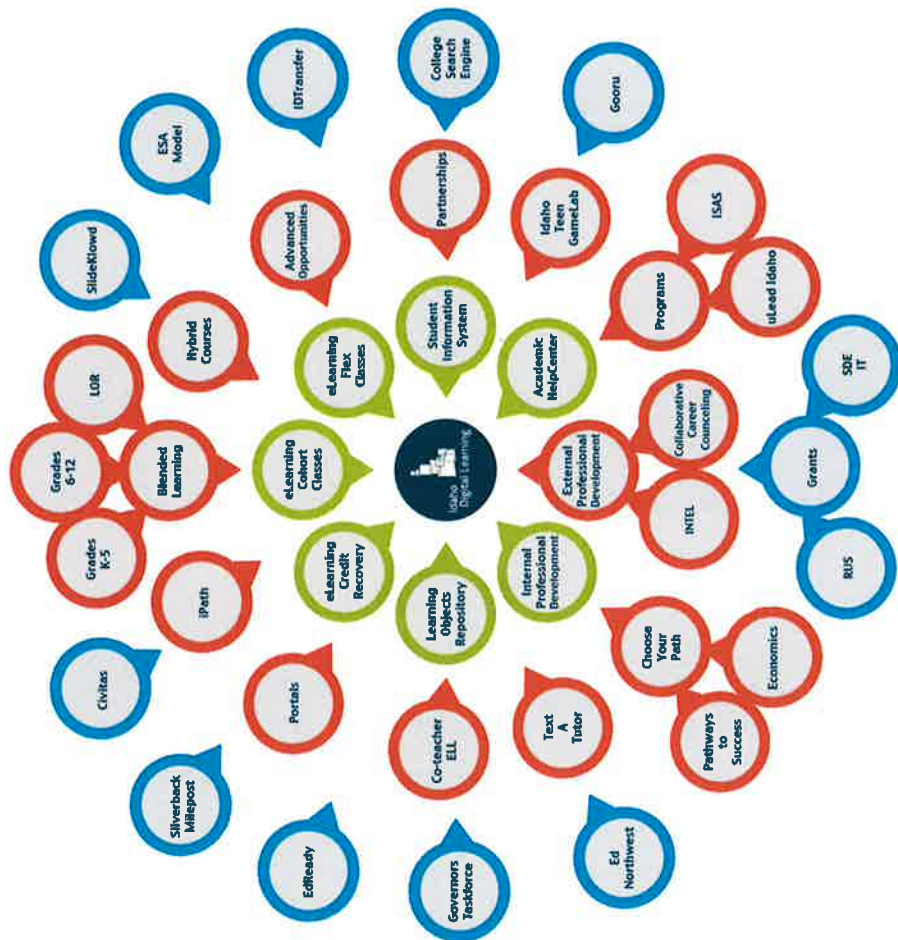


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Credit offer over 70 different
semester courses with a pass
rate of over 91%

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Highly-Qualified
Teachers

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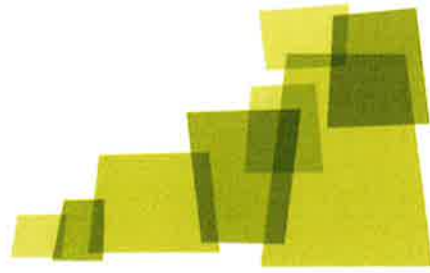


Camille Eddy

- Advanced Math through IDLA
- Participated in Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars
- Sophomore at Boise State University majoring in Mechanical Engineering

“I cannot begin to express how critical a role IDLA played in my success in college...”

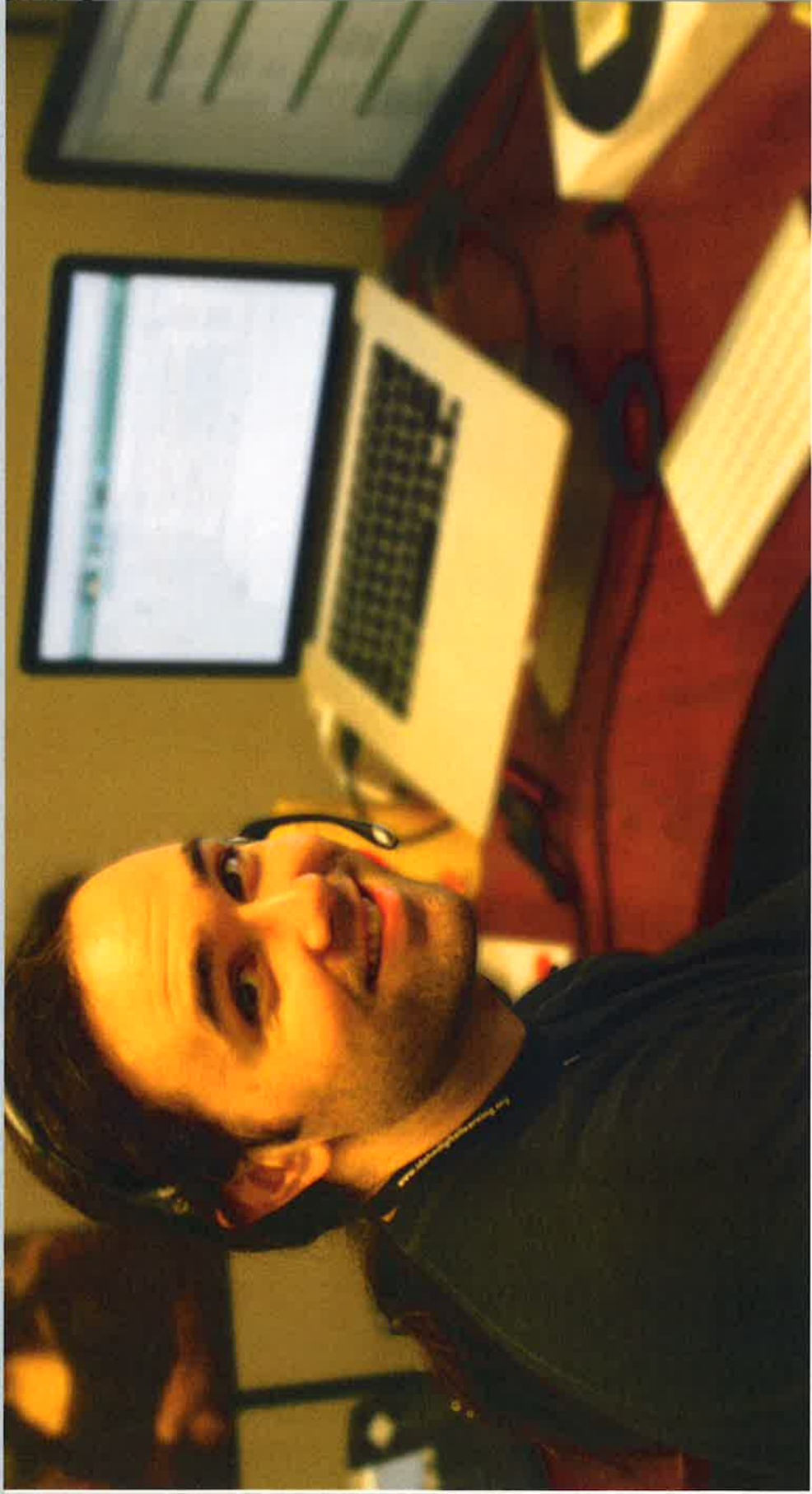
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International Association for K-12 Online Learning

SRI International



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Inquiry in the
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Moving into
Mobile Learning




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Blackfoot High School



IDLA Course Catalog
View currently offered online courses.




IDLA
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Lili
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Sign In
Sign-in to access classes, and other resources.



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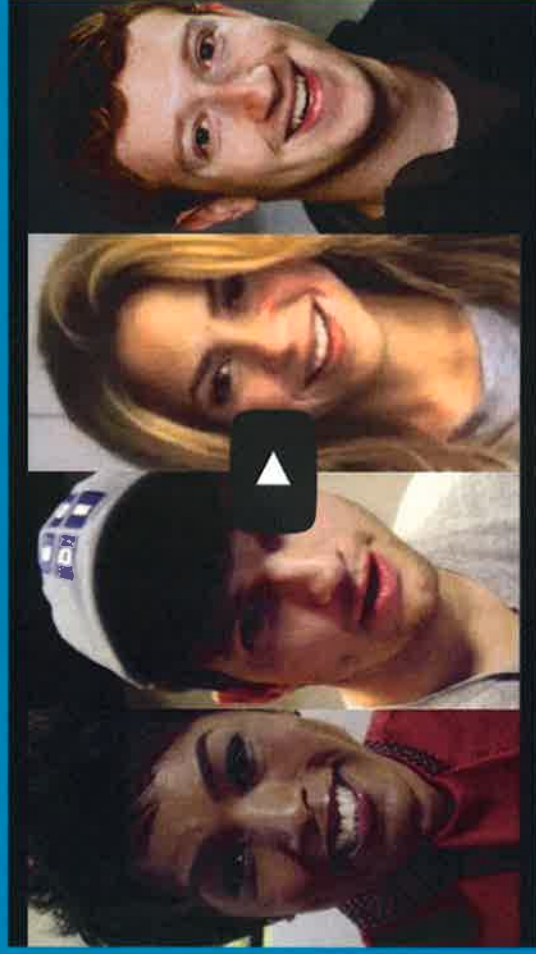
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4,854,251,010 LINES OF CODE WRITTEN BY STUDENTS



96,782,819
have tried an
Hour of Code
Anybody can learn.

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Beyond an Hour of Code

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Q & A

thank you!

January 27, 2015

Senate Education

SDE Proposed Rules

Docket 08-0202-1402

Mike Ryals

Idaho Association of Professional Driving Businesses

Chairman Mortimer and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am Mike Ryals, a volunteer speaking on behalf of the Idaho Association of Professional Driving Businesses. My remarks will be in opposition to Docket 08-0202-1402 as they relate to Driving Businesses.

Mr. Chairman, after 41 yrs. of teaching Drivers Education in Public schools and as a private business owner, I retired 2 yrs. ago. In 2004 I became involved in developing Rules that would be beneficial for driving businesses. At that time, SDE was the oversight agency for businesses. In my past 10 yrs. of working on Rules, the SDE has had 4 Supervisors for the Drivers Education Programs, some of which were not licensed to teach Drivers Education & were never driving business owners. That within itself has created many challenges. **In 2009 the Legislature voted to approve the move of driving businesses to the Bureau of Occupational Licensing. We are no longer a part of the Department of Education.** That brings me to my remarks regarding these proposed rules.

The Association was unaware that any new rules were being proposed that would affect contracting with Public Schools until it became an Agenda item in a House Education Sub-Committee. The Administrative Bulletin is not a daily read for driving businesses. However, 67-5220 of the Administrative Procedure Act reads "the notice of intent to promulgate a rule is intended to facilitate negotiated rulemaking, a process in which all interested parties and the agency seek consensus

on the content of a rule. Agencies are encouraged to proceed through informal rulemaking whenever it is feasible to do so.” There was no communication from the Department of Education to the Association for Driving Businesses, the Driving Businesses Licensure Board or driving businesses that contract with 13 school districts, those most affected. Imagine my surprise when I checked the SDE web site and found no changes crossed out or new language highlighted in red. Instead what I found was the black and white which made the rules appear as if they had been approved by the legislature and were now Rules. Not only that, I called some of the contractors and found 1 that had been told by SDE in the summer, that these were Rules and they had to follow them. **Document #1 are the Rules last adopted by the Legislature regarding Contracting; and Document #2 is what the SDE has posted on the website.** I’d like to make comment on these 2 documents.

Referring to Document #2 Insertion 7.1 This is new language regarding Code 67-2801 through 67-2809. If you check **Doc. #3, Code 67-2803 EXCLUSIONS #(4)** it would appear that Driving Businesses as an independent contractor would be excluded...and since the rest of **7.1 Doc.#2** is already included in **Doc #1 current rule 7.1 and 7.1.1...** The objection to **7.1 in Doc.2** is that it is unnecessary and repetitive.

Referring to Document # 2 Insertion 7.3. I was appalled to read the language that SDE wants inserted regarding the fees that are charged by a contractor. This contract after all, is suppose to be between the school district and the contractor. **Code 33-1707 Reimbursement** says nothing about “reduced fees” or “direct expense equal to” but rather speaks to how the reimbursement is computed when the course is completed and all required forms are completed. This is a blatant overreach of authority by the SDE to control fees charged by driving businesses and takes away the right of local school districts to negotiate their respective contracts. The Operating Procedures posted on the SDE Web Site **4.3.8 states and I quote** “Public schools are eligible for full

reimbursement at the current rate for each student that completes the required 30 hrs. of classroom, six hr. of driving, and 6 hr. of observation.

I also have a concern regarding the smaller rural districts that contract with driving businesses and have been doing so for many years. These Districts have decided they no longer can do a program due to the expense of vehicles, instructor wages & Persi contributions, insurances and fuel or lack of a certified Driver Education teacher. The contractors are often from outside of their district. Contracts often include benefits such as a free classroom or providing overnight cost. I know of a contractor who computes his fee by the number of unemployed parents in that particular district and another who requires a certain number of students. My point is...these contracts work and should be at the discretion of the school districts and the contractors and not a fee formula or designated contract used by SDE to control fees charges. X

As I rummaged through my files of proposed, pending & temporary rules since 2004, I came across an interesting quote in the Administrative Bulletin 2010 which spoke to the Rules finally passed in 2011, "the Idaho Legislature did not approve the revisions resulting in the State Department of Education resubmitting these rules....the primary purpose cited by the Legislature for not approving the Operating Procedures for Idaho Public Driver Education Programs was due to **unclear guidelines** relating to the relationship between commercial driving schools and the Department of Education." The Association feels the proposed Rules are not in the best interest of students, school districts and contractors. End of quote

In conclusion, I would ask your consideration of the objections that I have stated and vote against passing these Proposed Rules.

Mr. Chairman and members of this Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to speak. Thank You.