

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 298

BY WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A
NEW CHAPTER 68, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND TO DEFINE TERMS; AND DECLARING
AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

SECTION 1. That Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended
by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chap-
ter 68, Title 33, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

CHAPTER 68

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

33-6801. CREDIT REQUIREMENTS. (1) A student shall meet the state mini-
mum graduation requirement for all Idaho public high schools, which includes
a total of forty-six (46) credits, twenty-nine (29) credits of which shall
be in core subjects as described in section 33-6802, Idaho Code, before the
student is eligible to graduate from an Idaho public high school. Students
shall also demonstrate college or career readiness by completing a senior
project as described in section 33-6804, Idaho Code. The local education
agency may establish graduation requirements beyond the state minimum.

(2) For purposes of sections 33-6801 through 33-6805, Idaho Code, the
following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Idaho content standards" means state-adopted standards that serve
as a minimum threshold for academic consistency statewide and that de-
scribe the knowledge, concepts, and skills that students are expected
to acquire at each grade level in each content area.

(b) "Idaho public high school" or "high school" means any public school
that contains grade 12.

(3) One (1) credit shall equal sixty (60) hours of total instruction.
Local education agencies may request a waiver from the requirements of this
subsection by submitting a letter to the state department of education for
approval signed by the superintendent and chair of the board of trustees of
the local education agency. The waiver request shall provide information
and documentation that substantiates the local education agency's reason
for not requiring sixty (60) hours of total instruction per credit.

(4) Notwithstanding subsection (3) of this section, a student may also
obtain credits by demonstrating mastery of a subject's Idaho content stan-
dards as defined and approved by the local education agency.

33-6802. CORE SUBJECTS. (1) For purposes of this section, the follow-
ing definitions shall apply:

1 (a) "Advanced placement" means the advanced placement program adminis-
2 tered by the college board.

3 (b) "Career technical education" means formal preparation for
4 semi-skilled, skilled, technical, or paraprofessional occupations,
5 usually below the baccalaureate level.

6 (c) "Dual credit" means coursework in which an Idaho public high school
7 student is enrolled in a college-level course that is also counted as a
8 secondary course for high school graduation purposes.

9 (d) "Laboratory-based course" means a course in which at least one (1)
10 class period each week is devoted to providing students with the oppor-
11 tunity to manipulate equipment, materials, and specimens, or develop
12 skills in observation and analysis and discover, demonstrate, illus-
13 trate, or test scientific principles or concepts.

14 (e) "Project-based learning experience" means a hands-on approach to
15 learning that encourages students to create, interpret, and communi-
16 cate an original work or project and that assesses the quality and suc-
17 cess of learning through performance, presentation, and production of
18 that work or project.

19 (2) Secondary language arts and communication. Nine (9) credits are
20 required in secondary language arts and communication courses, eight (8)
21 credits of which shall be instruction in language arts. Each year of lan-
22 guage arts shall consist of language study, composition, and literature and
23 shall be aligned with the Idaho content standards for the appropriate grade
24 level. One (1) credit of instruction in communications is required, con-
25 sisting of oral communication and technological applications that include a
26 course in speech, a course in debate, or a sequence of instructional activi-
27 ties that meet the Idaho content standards.

28 (3) Mathematics. Six (6) credits are required in mathematics courses.
29 Secondary mathematics includes integrated mathematics, applied mathemat-
30 ics, business mathematics, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, fundamentals
31 of calculus, probability and statistics, discrete mathematics, precal-
32 culus, and courses in mathematical problem solving and quantitative rea-
33 soning, including mathematics taken through career technical education
34 programs. Dual credit engineering courses and computer science courses that
35 align with the Idaho content standards for grades 9 through 12, including ad-
36 vanced placement computer science and dual credit computer science courses
37 may be counted as a mathematics credit. Students shall complete secondary
38 mathematics credits in the following areas:

39 (a) Two (2) credits of algebra I, algebra I-level equivalent integrated
40 mathematics, or courses that meet the Idaho content standards;

41 (b) Two (2) credits of geometry, geometry-level equivalent integrated
42 mathematics, or courses that meet the Idaho content standards; and

43 (c) Two (2) credits of mathematics of the student's choice.

44 (4) Science. Six (6) credits are required in science courses, two (2)
45 of which shall be laboratory-based. Secondary sciences include instruc-
46 tion in applied sciences, earth, space, and environment sciences, physical
47 sciences or chemistry, life sciences, biology, and computer science as de-
48 scribed in subsection (8) of this section.

49 (5) Social studies. Five (5) credits are required in social studies
50 courses, which includes one (1) credit in government, two (2) credits in

1 United States history, including Idaho history, one (1) credit in history of
2 western civilization, and one (1) credit in economics and financial liter-
3 acy. Students may earn the economics and financial literacy credit by taking
4 an advanced academic or career technical education course in that subject
5 area that provides college credit. Successful completion of the legislative
6 page program in the Idaho house of representatives or the Idaho senate may
7 meet the requirement for one (1) government credit. Courses such as geogra-
8 phy, sociology, and psychology may be offered as electives, but are not to be
9 counted as credits in social studies.

10 (6) Humanities. Two (2) credits are required in humanities courses.
11 Humanities courses include instruction in visual arts, music, theater,
12 dance, or world language that is aligned with the Idaho content standards
13 for those subjects. Other courses such as literature, history, philosophy,
14 architecture, or comparative world religions may satisfy the Idaho content
15 standards if the course is aligned to the interdisciplinary humanities con-
16 tent standards.

17 (7) (a) Health and wellness. One (1) credit is required in health and
18 wellness courses. The course shall be aligned to the Idaho content
19 standards. Each student shall receive a minimum of one (1) class period
20 on psychomotor cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) training as out-
21 lined in the American heart association guidelines for CPR, including
22 the proper utilization of an automatic external defibrillator.

23 (b) Students participating in one (1) season of any sport recognized by
24 the Idaho high school activities association, one (1) season of any club
25 sport recognized by the local education agency, or eighteen (18) weeks
26 of a sport recognized by the local education agency may choose to sub-
27 stitute participation in place of up to one (1) credit of physical edu-
28 cation. Students shall show mastery of the Idaho content standards in a
29 format provided by the local education agency.

30 (8) Computer science. Computer science courses may count as math-
31 ematics credit or science credit. Students who choose to take computer
32 science courses may not concurrently count such courses as both a mathemat-
33 ics and science credit for the same course but may choose whether to count
34 the courses as mathematics credit or as science credit as determined by the
35 student. Certified teachers who have completed at least thirty (30) hours
36 of nationally recognized, course-specific professional learning approved
37 by the state board of education shall be authorized to provide instruction
38 in computer science.

39 33-6803. CONTENT STANDARDS. Each student shall meet locally estab-
40 lished subject area standards, using state content standards as minimum
41 requirements, demonstrated through various measures of accountability,
42 including examinations or other measures.

43 33-6804. SENIOR PROJECT. The senior project is a culminating project
44 to illustrate a student's ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate in-
45 formation and communicate that knowledge and understanding. A student shall
46 complete a senior project by the end of grade 12. Senior projects may be
47 multi-year projects, group or individual projects, or approved pre-intern-
48 ship or school-to-work internship programs, at the discretion of the local

1 education agency. The project shall include elements of research, devel-
2 opment of a thesis using experiential learning or integrated project-based
3 learning experiences, and presentation of the project outcome. Additional
4 requirements for a senior project are at the discretion of the local educa-
5 tion agency. Completion of a postsecondary certificate or degree at the time
6 of high school graduation or an approved pre-internship or internship pro-
7 gram may be used to meet this requirement.

8 33-6805. CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT PROFICIENCY. Pursuant to section
9 33-1602, Idaho Code, each local education agency may establish an alternate
10 path for determining if a student has met the state civics and government
11 content standards. Alternate paths are open to all students in grades 7
12 through 12. Any student who has been determined proficient in the state
13 civics and government content standards through the completion of the civics
14 test, completion of an associated college credit-bearing examination, or
15 completion of an alternate path shall have it noted on the student's high
16 school transcript.

17 33-6806. MIDDLE SCHOOL. (1) A middle school student meets the high
18 school content and credit area requirement for any high school course if the
19 following requirements are met:

- 20 (a) The student completes the course with a grade of "C" or higher be-
21 fore entering grade 9;
22 (b) The course meets the same Idaho content standards that are required
23 in high school for the same course; and
24 (c) The course is taught by a teacher properly certified to teach high
25 school content and who meets the federal definition of "highly quali-
26 fied" for the course being taught.

27 (2) The student shall be given a grade for the successful completion of
28 the course. The grade and the number of credit hours assigned to the course
29 will be transferred to the student's high school transcript. The student's
30 parent or legal guardian shall be notified in advance when credits are going
31 to be transcribed and may elect to not have the grade and credits transferred
32 to the student's high school transcript. Courses taken in middle school
33 appearing in the student's high school transcript pursuant to this section
34 shall count for the purpose of high school graduation. However, the student
35 shall complete the required number of credits in all high school core sub-
36 jects as identified in section 33-6802, Idaho Code. The transcribing high
37 school is required to verify that the course meets the requirements speci-
38 fied in this section.

39 33-6807. SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS. A student who is eligible for
40 special education services under the individuals with disabilities educa-
41 tion improvement act may, with the assistance of the student's individual-
42 ized education program team, meet the graduation requirements through the
43 current Idaho special education manual specifications.

44 33-6808. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS. A foreign exchange student may be
45 eligible for graduation by completing a comparable program as approved by
46 the local education agency.

1 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
2 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
3 July 1, 2025.