

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1044

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING CHAPTER 16,
2 TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1638, IDAHO
3 CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING CURSIVE HANDWRITING PROFI-
4 CIENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR IDAHO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS; AND DECLARING AN
5 EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
6

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

8 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. The Legislature finds that cursive
9 handwriting is a vital skill. This act ensures that all Idaho public school
10 students develop proficiency in cursive handwriting.

11 SECTION 2. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
12 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
13 ignated as Section 33-1638, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

14 33-1638. CURSIVE HANDWRITING PROFICIENCY REQUIREMENT IN IDAHO PUB-
15 LIC SCHOOLS. (1) Idaho public schools shall require proficiency in cursive
16 handwriting for students by the end of grade 5. "Cursive handwriting profi-
17 ciency" means that students can write legibly in cursive.

18 (2) The state board of education shall require cursive handwriting in-
19 struction for students by grade 3.

20 (3) The state department of education shall:

21 (a) Set benchmarks for cursive handwriting proficiency;

22 (b) Provide guidelines and examples for assessing student progress;
23 and

24 (c) Share resources to assist teachers in providing effective cursive
25 handwriting instruction.

26 (4) All Idaho public schools shall be in compliance with the provisions
27 of this section by the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

28 (5) Students who do not achieve cursive handwriting proficiency by the
29 end of grade 5 shall receive additional instruction until such proficiency
30 is demonstrated.

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