

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS32031 / S1044

This legislation ensures that all Idaho public school students achieve proficiency in cursive handwriting by the end of fifth grade. While cursive is included in Idaho's state standards, proficiency is not required. Cursive proficiency is essential for signing documents, reading historical texts, and fostering personal expression. This proposal mandates statewide cursive instruction beginning in third grade, with benchmarks set by the State Board of Education to ensure consistent progress and implementation. It also supports developmental skills such as fine motor coordination and memory.

## FISCAL NOTE

The fiscal impact of this proposal is negligible. Existing language arts curricula already include handwriting instruction, and this proposal formalizes the requirement for cursive instruction starting in third grade. Minor costs for developing benchmarks, guidelines, and resources can be absorbed within the State Department of Education's current budget. Free and low-cost resources are readily available to support implementation. There is no increased fiscal impact to the general fund or local governments.

### Contact:

Senator Tammy Nichols  
(208) 332-1000

**DISCLAIMER:** This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).