

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 25

BY THAYN

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1620, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR PREKINDERGARTEN COUNSELING, TO PROVIDE FOR KINDERGARTEN MASTERY, TO STATE LEGISLATIVE INTENT AND TO PROVIDE FOR STATE BOARD AUTHORITY.

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

SECTION 1. That Chapter 16, 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 33-1620, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1620. PREKINDERGARTEN COUNSELING AND KINDERGARTEN MASTERY – LEGISLATIVE INTENT – STATE BOARD AUTHORITY. (1) Prior to enrolling a child in public kindergarten, a parent or guardian of a child eligible to enroll in kindergarten may request one (1) or more conferences with a kindergarten teacher in the school district in which the child resides to discuss the best course of providing kindergarten level education to the child. At the conference the kindergarten teacher shall:

- (a) Advise the parent or guardian as to whether the child is ready to begin instruction at the kindergarten level;
- (b) Advise the parent or guardian as to whether the parent or guardian has the resources to provide kindergarten level instruction in the child’s home, and if additional resources are advisable, where those resources may be acquired; and
- (c) Counsel the parent or guardian as to the achievement standards required to demonstrate mastery of kindergarten level instruction.

Whenever possible the child should be present at the conference between the parent or guardian and the kindergarten teacher.

(2) At or prior to enrolling a child in an established public first grade program or prior to the child attaining the age of six (6) years, whichever occurs first, the parent or guardian of a child who has not previously attended a public kindergarten may request that the school district administer a test to the child to determine whether the child can demonstrate mastery of the kindergarten achievement standards.

- (a) A child who is able to demonstrate mastery of the kindergarten achievement standards shall be eligible to enroll in the school district’s first grade.
- (b) The test permitted by this subsection shall not be taken by the child more than two (2) times prior to the child’s enrollment in a public first grade.
- (c) For each child who has not yet reached the age of six (6) years by the commencement of the district’s school year and who can demonstrate mastery of the kindergarten achievement standards as determined by the state board, the school district shall be entitled to a payment equal to one-quarter (1/4) of the average amount of state

1 moneys distributed pursuant to the educational support program, section 33-1002, Idaho
2 Code, per kindergarten student in average daily attendance as calculated for the prior
3 fiscal year, and the parent or guardian of the child shall be entitled to an equal amount.
4 No payment shall be made to a parent or guardian for a child who is currently or has been
5 previously enrolled in a public kindergarten program.

6 (d) Nothing in this subsection is to be construed to require a child to attend kindergarten
7 or to require a child to master kindergarten achievement standards in order to be eligible
8 to enroll in a public first grade.

9 (3) The legislative intent of this section is to encourage parental and guardian
10 involvement in the early childhood education of children.

11 (4) The state board shall establish achievement and school readiness standards for public
12 kindergarten programs, a test to demonstrate mastery of those standards and such rules that
13 may be necessary to implement the requirements of this section. The achievement standards
14 established by the state board shall reflect the actual content of the public kindergarten
15 programs in Idaho.