

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 637

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION AND TEACHERS; AMENDING SECTION 33-1207A, IDAHO CODE,
2 TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT THE
3 INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO PROVIDE FOR REQUIREMENTS RELATING
4 TO FULL CERTIFICATION OF CERTAIN TEACHERS AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL
5 CORRECTION.
6

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

8 SECTION 1. That Section 33-1207A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 33-1207A. TEACHER PREPARATION. (1) Higher Education Institutions.
11 The state board shall review teacher preparation programs at the
12 institutions of higher education under ~~their~~ its supervision and shall
13 assure that the course offerings and graduation requirements are consistent
14 with the state board approved, research based "Idaho Comprehensive Literacy
15 Plan." To ~~assure the most immediate~~ ensure compliance with this requirement,
16 the board may allocate funds, subject to appropriation, to the higher
17 education institutions ~~which require revision of the program that have~~
18 teacher preparation programs.

19 ~~The state board~~ higher education institutions shall be responsible
20 for the ~~development of a single~~ preservice assessment measure for all
21 kindergarten through grade ~~eight~~ twelve (~~§12~~) teacher preparation programs.
22 The assessment must include a demonstration of teaching skills and
23 knowledge congruent with current research on best reading practices. ~~In~~
24 ~~addition the assessment must include how children acquire language; the~~
25 ~~basic sound structure of English, including phonological and phonemic~~
26 ~~awareness; phonics and structural analysis; semantics and syntactics;~~
27 ~~how to select reading textbooks; and how to use diagnostic tools and test~~
28 ~~data to improve teaching. It shall also include the preservice teacher's~~
29 ~~knowledge base of reading process: phonological awareness; sound symbol~~
30 ~~correspondence (intensive, systematic phonemes); semantics (meaning);~~
31 ~~syntax (grammar and language patterns); pragmatics (background knowledge~~
32 ~~and life experience); and comprehension and critical thinking. By September~~
33 ~~2002, all K-8 teacher candidates from an Idaho teacher preparation program~~
34 ~~shall pass this assessment in order to qualify for an Idaho standard~~
35 ~~elementary teaching certificate. The state board shall report the number~~
36 ~~of preservice teachers taking and passing the performance based reading~~
37 ~~assessment to the legislature and governor annually. All costs associated~~
38 ~~with administration of this test shall be borne by the institution which~~
39 ~~administers the test and shall be shown as a line item in the appropriation~~
40 ~~request of the institution for state reimbursement~~ Each institution shall
41 report annually to the state board of education the number of preservice
42 teachers who have passed the assessment. The state board of education shall

1 then compile the statewide results and report to the legislature and the
2 governor.

3 ~~(2) In service Programs. Each teacher employed in a classroom for~~
4 ~~kindergarten through grade eight (8), Title I, or special education and~~
5 ~~each school administrator of a school which includes kindergarten through~~
6 ~~grade eight (8), Title I, or special education shall complete three (3)~~
7 ~~credits (or forty five (45) contact hours of in service training) of a state~~
8 ~~approved reading instruction course titled "Idaho Comprehensive Literacy~~
9 ~~Course" based on the state approved research based "Idaho Comprehensive~~
10 ~~Literacy Plan" in order to recertify. Courses which qualify for credit~~
11 ~~shall be approved by the state department of education, and any educator who~~
12 ~~completes a state approved reading instruction course prior to September~~
13 ~~2001, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this subsection. For~~
14 ~~all Idaho teachers working on interim certificates, alternate routes or~~
15 ~~coming from out of state c~~Completion of a state approved reading instruction
16 course shall be a one-time requirement for renewal of full certification for
17 those currently employed in an Idaho school district and shall be included
18 within current requirements for continuing education for renewal. The
19 department shall provide a waiver of this requirement if the applicant
20 successfully completes the reading assessment measure developed for
21 preservice purposes as provided in subsection (1) of this section. The
22 department shall establish a procedure to allow a waiver of this requirement
23 if the applicant teaches in a secondary grade subject which does not directly
24 involve teaching reading or writing.

25 (3) The board of trustees of every school district shall include
26 in its plan for in-service training, coursework covering reading skills
27 development, including diagnostic tools to review and adjust instruction
28 continuously, and the ability to identify students who need special help in
29 reading. The district plan for in-service training in reading skills shall
30 be submitted to the state department of education for review and approval, in
31 a format specified by the department.