

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS20417

This part of Idaho's Students Come First legislation relates to public school modernization and reform. The Idaho Legislature has a duty to ensure Idaho's schools are on firm financial ground. In the past two years, approximately \$200 million in state funds have been cut from Idaho's public school system. To ensure the state can educate more students at a higher level with limited resources, the state must reform and modernize the educational system. The Students Come First legislation reprioritizes statutory requirements to strategically invest in Idaho's educators and technology, and increases transparency for Idaho's public school system. It accomplishes this by making the following changes:

- Frees up funds to cover the loss of FY11 one-time moneys and reallocate to other statutory priorities within the legislation by increasing the average daily attendance divisors in grades 4-12 over the next five fiscal years.
- The State Department of Education will post a fiscal report card for each school district.
- Each school district will post its budget and master labor agreement online.
- Creates a formula for funding technology from the overall budget determined by the Legislature.
- Creates a formula for funding dual credit courses for eligible students from the overall budget determined by the Legislature.
- Creates a formula for providing additional resources for school districts to implement the state's increased graduation requirement for math and science courses, from the overall budget determined by the Legislature.
- Ensures every Idaho public high school has a 1:1 ratio of students to computers, or mobile computing devices in FY13. School districts will have the flexibility of distribution to students. This will include the repair, maintenance and support of the devices, from the overall budget determined by the Legislature.
- Establishes a high school graduation requirement of four credits of online courses, beginning with the 9th grade class of 2012-2013.
- Establishes a fractional average daily attendance funding system for dual enrolled students and students who enroll in online courses, if the school district has no contract in place with the content provider. This replaces the third portion of the three-part funding formula of the Idaho Digital Learning Academy.
- Increases teacher pay by gradually unfreezing the state salary reimbursement grid over the FY 2012 through FY 2014 time period.
- Increases the state's minimum teacher salary to \$30,000.
- Allows public post-secondary institutions to operate public charter high schools.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation will save the state General Fund the following amounts:

FY 2012 - \$25.4 million
FY 2013 - \$52.5 million
FY 2014 - \$59.5 million
FY 2015 - \$57.9 million
FY 2016 - \$63.8 million
FY 2017 - \$67.6 million



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