

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 270

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1630, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR AN AT-HOME
3 SCHOOL READINESS PILOT PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE MINIMUM INSTRUCTION RE-
4 QUIREMENTS, TO ESTABLISH DUTIES OF THE EARLY EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY
5 PROVIDER, TO ESTABLISH DUTIES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND
6 TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS RELATING TO FUNDING; AND PROVIDING A SUNSET
7 DATE.
8

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

10 SECTION 1. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
11 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
12 ignated as Section 33-1630, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

13 33-1630. AT-HOME SCHOOL READINESS PILOT PROGRAM. (1) There is hereby
14 established the at-home school readiness pilot program authorizing the
15 state department of education to contract with an early education technology
16 provider selected through a procurement process in compliance with state
17 law to provide a home-based educational technology program for literacy and
18 numeracy instruction under the criteria enumerated in this section. Pref-
19 erence shall be given to respondents with a demonstrated record of success
20 providing comparable services at low cost in Idaho or other states.

21 (2) The early education technology provider shall provide computer-as-
22 sisted instruction for young children over the internet on a home computer.
23 At a minimum, instruction shall include:

24 (a) Computer-assisted individualized instruction in the fundamentals
25 of reading and mathematics, capable of independent use by a young child;

26 (b) A multisensory remedial reading tutorial; and

27 (c) A validated computer adaptive reading assessment to measure read-
28 ing readiness.

29 (3) The provider shall communicate with parents, provide virtual and
30 in-person training, update instructional software, validate user access,
31 collect usage figures, retain research data and produce reports for parents,
32 schools and the legislature. The provider shall be capable of quickly modi-
33 fying, improving and supporting the instructional product.

34 (4) The provider shall offer technical support to families for opera-
35 tion of the instructional software. The provider shall loan and facilitate
36 installation of computer and peripheral equipment, as well as internet ser-
37 vices, for families living at or below one hundred eight-five percent (185%)
38 of the federal poverty level who do not already have them, for use during the
39 duration of participation in the program.

40 (5) The provider shall make an annual report available to the state de-
41 partment of education and the legislature, which shall include:

- 1 (a) The extent to which the program is accomplishing its established
2 purpose as specified in subsection (2) of this section;
- 3 (b) The number of families requesting and selected to participate;
- 4 (c) The number of families requesting and selected to receive comput-
5 ers;
- 6 (d) The instructional usage rate;
- 7 (e) The obstacles encountered with software, hardware or technical as-
8 sistance;
- 9 (f) The degree of parental satisfaction;
- 10 (g) The comparison of participant performance on assessments adminis-
11 tered prior to beginning the program and upon completing the program;
12 and
- 13 (h) The comparison of participant performance and nonparticipant per-
14 formance on the kindergarten reading skills assessment established by
15 this chapter.
- 16 (6) The state department of education shall assist the provider in
17 identifying regions of the state in which students demonstrate low perfor-
18 mance on the kindergarten reading skills assessment established by chapter
19 16, title 33, Idaho Code. The provider shall work in cooperation with school
20 districts and other entities to identify and solicit participating families
21 from those regions through, at a minimum, referrals and a public information
22 campaign.
- 23 (7) State funding for the at-home school readiness pilot program may be
24 combined with grants and donations from private sources and other public and
25 private funding, and administered through pay for success contracting, to
26 the extent permitted by law, or other funding mechanisms.

27 SECTION 2. The provisions of this act shall be null, void and of no force
28 and effect on and after July 1, 2020.