

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS23873

The implementation committee of the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education recognized that college and career advising is key to a student's success at the postsecondary level and in the workforce. The committee recommended school districts receive funds for the specific purpose of implementing college and career counseling programs using models and programs best suited to meeting local needs. The committee recommended that an initial \$2.5 million be distributed to districts in a manner similar to the way in which existing public school technology program funds are distributed. The committee researched several college and career advising models that are being used effectively in the districts and recommended having the flexibility to use these or other programs that have been proven effective.

The proposed legislation adds language to section 33-1002, Idaho Code allowing Education Support Program funds to be used toward academic and college or career advising and outlines the formula used to distribute the funds, which is the same formula as that used for the public school technology program. The legislation further adds clarity to the current definition of "School Counselors" in section 33-1212, Idaho Code and adds a new section (section 33-1212A, Idaho code) defining academic and college or career advisors and specifies advising programs that have already been tested and found to be effective in Idaho. The proposed changes clarify that school districts may use either certificated counselors and teachers or non-certificated staff to serve as college or career advisors, and that regardless of the staff used, those serving as college or career advisors must have received some training in this area. The new section would also require notification to students and their parents of the availability of advising and requires that school districts report annually on the effectiveness of their programs.

FISCAL NOTE

There would be no fiscal impact unless funds were specifically appropriated. The Governor has recommended \$2.5M be appropriated for this purpose. The proposed formula as applied to the technology program in FY2015 would result in an increased distribution of approximately \$2.5M, if funds were appropriated. The formula would distribute \$120 per support unit for grades 8 through 12 in the first reporting period or \$10,000 per district, whichever is greater.

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