Task Force on Improving Education Implementation Committees

Senate Education Committee
January 20, 2015

Education Improvement Committees 2014

- Three committees to develop and refine the Task Force recommendations
  - **Structure and Governance**
  - Career Ladder/Tiered Licensure
  - Literacy

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Education Improvement Committees 2014
Structure and Governance

Recommendations for further study and implementation:
- #1: Mastery Based System
- #4: Advanced Opportunities
- #5: Revamp the State's Accountability Structure Involving Schools
- #6: Empower Autonomy by Removing Constraints
- #7: Annual Strategic Planning, Assessment, and Continuous Focus on Improvement
- #8: Statewide Electronic Collaboration System
- #10: Educator and Student Technology Devices
- #13: Enrollment Model of Funding Schools
- #17: Site-based Collaboration Among Teachers and Instructional Leaders
- #18: Training and Development of School Administrators, Superintendents and School Boards

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Education Improvement Committees 2014
Structure and Governance

Membership
Don Soltman, State Board of Education, Chair
Bob Lokken, CEO, White Cloud Analytics and Idaho Business for Education, Co-Chair
Reed DeMordaunt, Representative, Dist. 14, House Education Chair
Donna Pence, Representative, Dist. 26
Roy Lacey, Senator, Dist. 29
Gaylen Smyer, Superintendent, Cassia School District
Anne Ritter, Idaho School Boards Association, Meridian
Alan Millar, Idaho Charter School Network
Cheryl Charlton, CEO, Idaho Digital Learning Academy
Valerie Aker, *South Middle School, Nampa*
Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Corinne Mantle-Bromley, Dean, University of Idaho College of Education
Katie Graupmen, Teacher (Milken Award), Lakeland School District
Tom Taggart, Director of Business and Operations, Lakeland Joint School District
Cindy Wilson, Teacher, Capital High School, Boise School Dist.
Bill Brulotte, Principal, Perrine Elementary School, Twin Falls School Dist.
George Harad, Idaho Parents and Teachers Together

Richard Westerberg, State Board of Education, ex-officio
Roger Brown, Office of the Governor, ex-officio

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Structure and Governance

Organized into 3 subcommittees grouping recommendations with overlapping issues and concerns.

High Expectations

Innovation and Collaboration

Autonomy and Accountability

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High Expectations

Subcommittee Charge: To further refine the following recommendations of the Governor's Task Force:

- Shift to a **Mastery Based System** where students advance based upon content mastery, rather than seat time requirements.

- Ensure all students have access to **Advanced Opportunities** by expanding offerings.

- Shift from Average Daily Attendance (ADA) **Funding Model to Enrollment/Membership** to enhance fiscal stability and remove current barriers to personalized and/or mastery learning.

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Mastery-based Education

- The Subcommittee recommends:
  - ○ Idaho implement a pilot program that provides funding to encourage districts and schools to create their own mastery-based models, tailored to local conditions and opportunities.
  - ○ Idaho provide funding for professional development programs to assist districts/schools in implementing mastery-based models.
  - ○ The State Board of Education adopt the competency based education model developed by the Reinventing Schools Coalition.

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Mastery-based Education

- The Subcommittee also recommends:
  - ○ Idaho educate districts regarding competency based education. Idaho law does not prevent districts from advancing students based on mastery or competency.
  - ○ The State Department of Education prioritize federal or other grants to support districts who are implementing mastery programs with preference where appropriate given to rural districts.

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Advanced Opportunities

- The Subcommittee recommends:
  - o The relevant sections of Idaho Code pertaining to advanced opportunities be consolidated into a single chapter to provide better clarity to districts, institutions and school boards.
  - o The following changes be made to current advanced opportunities programs:
    - Eliminate the 10% participation cap in the 8 in 6 program.
    - Remove restriction to online courses in the 8 in 6 program to allow for courses taken in traditional schools.
    - Remove the requirement that students pay 25% of fees in the Fast Forward ($200/$400) program in order to eliminate barriers to those who need it most and to simplify reimbursement to districts.
  - o Follow-on work in 2-3 years to simplify and consolidate the Advanced Opportunities programs after review of Fast Forward data.

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Supporting Recommendations

- The Subcommittee recommends:
  - o A rule change clarifying that the 8th Grade Learning Plan is required to be reviewed in grades 9-12.
  - o The State Department of Education create a position to prioritize career counseling in all districts.
  - o The legislature appropriate funds specifically for districts to implement college and career counseling using a model that best fits their needs.

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Public Schools Funding Model

- The Subcommittee recommends:
  - o Idaho continue with Average Daily Attendance funding; however, we recognize that the current formula needs to be updated in a number of areas.
  - o The current attendance minimum requirements of 2.5 hours for a half day, and 4.0 hours for a full day of attendance be removed and a per credit model developed in its place.
  - o The current restriction on funding more than one FTE be removed and state funding provided in certain situations.
  - o Idaho remove "the best 28 weeks" as a factor in determining funding.
  - o A subcommittee be formed comprised of large and small districts, charter and traditional schools, online schools, SDE staff, and the IDLA to explore these areas further and report back.

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Innovation and Collaboration

Subcommittee Charge: To further refine the following recommendations of the Governor's Task Force:

- Statewide electronic collaboration system

- Educator and student technology devices with appropriate content

- Site-based collaboration among teachers and leaders

- Training and development of superintendents and school boards

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Statewide Electronic Collaboration System

- The Subcommittee recommends:
  - o The State Board of Education's Data Management Council (DMC) oversee the entire longitudinal data system in Idaho.
  - o The Director of Research in the Office of the State Board of Education Chair the DMC, and report annually to the State Board and the Legislature on the state of the project, accuracy of data and future needs/plans.

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Statewide Electronic Collaboration System

- The Subcommittee recognized that given the geography of Idaho, teachers should be able to collaborate using technology to share best practices and timely data.
  - o The Legislature's Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE) is finalizing an extensive study of the statewide longitudinal data system, the Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE) and SchoolNet, the state sponsored Instructional Improvement System (IIS).
  - o The Innovation and Collaboration Group recommends that it wait for the OPE report, due January 2015, before making further recommendations.

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Educator and Student Technology Devices with Appropriate Content

- The Subcommittee recommends:
  - o Idaho expedite its plans to provide broadband access and wireless infrastructure to all Idaho schools.
  - o We recommend that the technology grant pilot program to schools be discontinued and that funding be made available to all districts for technology needs.

- The Subcommittee recognizes that students must have access to appropriate devices to support learning.

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Site-based Collaboration Among Teachers and Leaders

- The Subcommittee recommends:
  - o The school year be increased by 3 days (24 hours) to allow for additional paid time for job-embedded professional development and collaboration. This time should be construed separately from professional development training relating to Idaho Core Standards.
  - o Job-embedded professional development and collaboration be scheduled weekly based on school schedules and student needs.
  - o Collaboration skills training be provided to all participating staff.

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Training and Development of Superintendents and School Boards

- The Subcommittee supports the Governor's Task Force recommendation calling for further development and implementation of the Idaho Standards for Effective Principals, which includes ongoing implementation and support for administrator training in the Danielson Framework for Teaching model through TeachScape proficiency exams.

- The 2014 Legislature passed HB521 which allows school boards to apply for reimbursement of training programs. Each school board will be responsible for developing an annual strategic plan. We support the recommendations of the Autonomy and Accountability Group which is refining the current legislation to reinforce the focus on continuous improvement.

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