

Testimony on SB 1086

Thank you for the opportunity to present today. We have been pleased to work with Senator Thayn, Chairman Mortimer and a number of stakeholders in developing this legislation.

SB 1086 seeks to address two issues.

The first is to improve the transfer of dual credit for technical programs by aligning the first semester of Professional-Technical Education programs of study among all of our public postsecondary institutions. This will allow us to align these common student outcomes with secondary school PTE programs so we can assure dual credit earned in high school will directly transfer to any of our postsecondary professional-technical programs throughout the state in a student's program of study and not as elective credit.

Secondly, we hope to improve access to PTE programs in rural school districts by increasing the number of online PTE courses available. We understand that not all PTE courses are appropriate for online instruction, but to the degree they are, we are partnering with Idaho Digital Learning Academy to expand PTE digital offerings to help provide students greater access to PTE courses in rural school districts.

Combining these two efforts, we can take the common student outcomes to develop high school curriculum that aligns to postsecondary PTE programs and increasingly offer them online through IDLA.

The Division of Professional-Technical Education has dedicated resources in its existing budget to begin the alignment of postsecondary PTE programs as well as resources to fund selected pilots for online digital PTE courses for the coming fiscal year. These pilots will provide us with information to assess their success and to develop future budget requests to continue these efforts.

I would be happy to respond to questions.