

Senate Education Committee Testimony – Support of House Bill 122
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When I first saw the rewrite of this bill, I had to smile with pride because it is exactly what our 255 Idaho accredited public, charter and private schools currently use as the basis for their continuous improvement program that results in accreditation.

This accreditation process we now use through AdvancED is a growth model that focuses on a research based and well-defined continuous improvement protocol that results in Accreditation.

The [process](#) includes a five year onsite review cycle plus annual or every second year progress reporting dependent upon accreditation status.

This rewrite of House Bill 521 into House Bill 122 is a natural next step for our districts and we strongly support this bill. The annual district progress reporting requirement fits perfectly into the procedure already in place at our 255 schools. With the passage of this bill, a layer of consistency will be added from building to building in districts and from district to district throughout Idaho.

Last year, our Idaho office of AdvancED applied to the State board of Education and is now an approved training provider to meet the intent of last year's House Bill 521 in the area of:

- -Strategic planning
- -Ethics

We are currently training schools, charters & districts using the AdvancED continuous improvement protocol which includes:

- Student/staff/parent stakeholder perception surveys (58,000 given so far this year in Idaho schools)
- Student data diagnostic tools
- Both aligned to a collaborative Self-assessment of five standards & 32 detailed indicators which outline everything from governance and ethics, to teaching and assessing for learning.
- Following the self-assessment, the district collaboratively constructs goals, objectives and activities in a formalized process that are adjusted to meet the needs of the institution throughout the ongoing process which leads up to the five year onsite visitation cycle.

We've worked closely with the Idaho School Board Association, the Idaho Association of School Administrators and look forward to working with the folks at Idaho Leads and others who are offering help to our districts.

One of our superintendents whose district is participating in our strategic planning project came to me a few days ago and said the continuous improvement process that is offered by AdvancED and used by his district is the best thing that ever happened. He reported that the various buildings in the district are talking together and working collaboratively toward consistent districtwide instructional goals that he hasn't seen before.

Mr. Chair and members of the Committee, this bill is the right thing to do for our districts and charters. It provides an outstanding growth opportunity with accountability and collaborative ownership of the process at all levels.

With that, we strongly support this bill with a do pass recommendation. Mr Chair, I would stand for questions if there are any.