

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 630

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 3, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-319A, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING RURAL EDUCATION SUPPORT NETWORKS.

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

SECTION 1. That Chapter 3, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-319A, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-319A. RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS -- RURAL EDUCATION SUPPORT NETWORKS. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Member" means a school district that has entered into a memorandum of understanding with a rural education support network;

(b) "Network" means an opt-in rural education support network established pursuant to this section; and

(c) "School district" means an Idaho public school district, a public charter school or the Idaho school for the deaf and the blind.

(2) The establishment of rural education support networks is hereby authorized. Network personnel may occupy a physical space in order to fulfill the administration and management of the network but not to serve as the designated location for the delivery of education services. A network will:

(a) Facilitate the coordination or sharing of education resources, programs, services or information among its members;

(b) Assist members in finding and procuring additional education resources through available grants or philanthropy;

(c) Seek to improve the efficacy and impact of existing education resources and assist members to do the same in order to provide increased education opportunities for students to ensure that all students are ready for college or careers;

(d) Have a membership composed of no fewer than six (6) school districts. The majority of the participating school districts must be rural school districts as defined in section 33-319, Idaho Code; and

(e) Adhere to the requirements in this section and rules promulgated for the administration and implementation of this section.

(3) Upon finalization of a memorandum of understanding (MOU), a school district shall become a member of the network. The MOU is finalized when it is signed by a representative of the participating school district. All finalized MOUs shall be in writing using the current model MOU developed by the state department of education. Addenda may be attached to the model MOU if desired. No MOU shall cover a period of time exceeding five (5) years.

(4) Members of each network shall:

1 (a) Determine the measureable goals of the network on which the educa-
2 tional impact of the network shall be reported pursuant to subsection
3 (5) (e) of this section;

4 (b) Determine an individual to serve as the director of the network.
5 The members of the network shall hold the director accountable for the
6 attainment of the network's measureable goals; and

7 (c) Determine how to employ the director and any other individuals
8 serving administrative roles for the network.

9 (5) The director of each network shall:

10 (a) Be selected by representatives of the school districts who seek to
11 establish the network;

12 (b) Facilitate the process through which each member's educational
13 needs are diagnosed and addressed;

14 (c) Engage members through regular collaboration and ongoing communi-
15 cation;

16 (d) Report annually to the legislature on the educational impact of the
17 network, using the measureable goals of the network as determined pur-
18 suant to subsection (4) (a) of this section;

19 (e) Regularly inform the superintendent of public instruction of the
20 goals, impact and additional needs of the network in a manner determined
21 by the superintendent of public instruction and agreed upon by direc-
22 tors of all networks; and

23 (f) Coordinate the use of funds available to the network as determined
24 by its members to address educational needs pursuant to subsection (2)
25 of this section.

26 (6) The superintendent of public instruction shall determine one (1)
27 network to establish in fiscal year 2019. Where desired by its members and
28 the state department of education and where appropriate for purposes of
29 documenting and creating a base of knowledge from which future networks may
30 draw, this network shall collaborate with the state department of education.
31 Funding provided to this network will be made pursuant to subsection (7) of
32 this section. Additional networks may be established in fiscal year 2020 or
33 later.

34 (7) The superintendent of public instruction shall provide funding for
35 each network as described in this subsection. Funding from the superinten-
36 dent of public instruction to each network shall be:

37 (a) Used by the network for the following purposes: the salary of the
38 director of the network, salaries for additional network staff, em-
39 ployee benefits of the director, employee benefits for any additional
40 network staff, rent, utilities, legal services, travel, and the pro-
41 curement or provision of education services, programs, resources, or
42 information;

43 (b) Provided for the fiscal year during which the network is estab-
44 lished, as well as for up to two (2) additional fiscal years immediately
45 following the fiscal year during which the network is established; and

46 (c) Provided at the discretion of the superintendent of public instruc-
47 tion based on the annual reported impact and needs of the network.

48 (8) In order to receive funding for the second and third fiscal years
49 of operation pursuant to subsection (7) (b) of this section, the director of
50 the network shall provide the superintendent of public instruction with ev-

1 idence of financial commitment from each member district and a plan describ-
2 ing how the network will continue to operate after its third year of opera-
3 tion.

4 (9) The state board of education shall promulgate rules for the admin-
5 istration and implementation of this section.