

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS27860 / H0576

Over the last eight years the Idaho Legislature has appropriated nearly \$200 million in technology funding to help local school districts and charter schools buy computers, wireless technology and network infrastructure. That technology is changing the way education is delivered in Idaho schools.

The Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee took the next step in that transformation by dedicating a part of the "Content and Curriculum" line item for distribution to local districts for digital resources. However, it is distributed based on a formula, which means that most Idaho districts receive less than \$5,000. That's simply not enough to purchase and implement learning tools for modern classrooms.

This bill changes that line item to create a source of funding for schools to use to purchase high-quality digital curriculum. Districts and charter schools request the money based on what they need, and the State Department of Education distributes the money based on district requests. The money is available on a first-come, first-served basis and open to all districts and charter schools. The maximum amount is \$50,000 per request.

School districts and charter schools seeking the funding will use it to meet measurable targets. Renewals of funding for subsequent years will be contingent on meeting interim targets and progress on overall goals for the programs being implemented.

Districts or charter schools can collaborate to jointly request funding.

FISCAL NOTE

This bill does not require new funding because it uses funding from an existing line item in the Public Schools Budget. For the 2020 Fiscal Year the Joint Finance and Appropriations Committee allocated \$1.6 million of that line item. This bill does not require that line item to be increased and clearly states that moneys in the fund are subject to appropriation. But the bill does change the distribution process.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).