

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 599

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO TEACHERS; AMENDING SECTION 33-1207A, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR  
NONPUBLIC TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SECTION 1. That Section 33-1207A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
amended to read as follows:

33-1207A. TEACHER PREPARATION. (1) Higher Education Institutions.  
The state board shall review teacher preparation programs at the institu-  
tions of higher education under its supervision and shall assure that the  
course offerings and graduation requirements are consistent with the state  
board-approved, research-based "Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan." To en-  
sure compliance with this requirement, the board may allocate funds, subject  
to appropriation, to the higher education institutions that have teacher  
preparation programs.

The higher education institutions shall be responsible for the pre-  
service assessment measures for all kindergarten through grade 12 teacher  
preparation programs. The assessment must include a demonstration of teach-  
ing skills and knowledge congruent with current research on best reading  
practices. The assessment may consist of multiple measures, in alignment  
with best practices, for the demonstration of these skills. Each insti-  
tution shall report annually to the state board of education the number  
of preservice teachers who have passed the assessment. The state board of  
education shall then compile the statewide results and report to the legis-  
lature and the governor.

(2) Nonpublic Teacher Preparation Programs.

(a) The state board shall grant teaching certificates to graduates of  
all already board-approved nonpublic teacher preparation programs that  
require their graduates to satisfy the following:

(i) Hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited four (4) year in-  
stitution;

(ii) Submit to a criminal history check as described in section  
33-130, Idaho Code;

(iii) Pass the required content training in the area or areas in  
which the graduate seeks to be endorsed. The content training  
must be in substantive alignment with knowledge or equivalent  
standards set forth in the initial standards for teacher certifi-  
cation, if any; and

(iv) Pass pedagogical training in substantive alignment with  
knowledge or equivalent standards set forth in the core standards  
of the initial standards for teacher certification, if any.

(b) Teaching certificates granted pursuant to this subsection shall be  
equivalent to certificates granted to graduates of teacher preparation

1 programs at public higher education institutions. Interim certifi-  
2 cates shall be made available to graduates of programs without a student  
3 teaching or clinical component and standard certificates subsequently  
4 shall be made available upon satisfaction of state board of education  
5 mentoring requirements and other state statutory requirements pertain-  
6 ing to all teachers. All performance requirements shall be considered  
7 satisfied by completion of state board mentoring requirements. Reviews  
8 of nonpublic teacher preparation programs shall be limited to verifica-  
9 tion of the criteria set forth in this subsection.

10 (3) For all Idaho teachers working on interim certificates, alternate  
11 routes or coming from out of state, completion of a state-approved reading  
12 instruction course shall be a onetime requirement for full certification.

13 (34) The board of trustees of every school district shall include, in  
14 its plan for in-service training, coursework covering reading skills devel-  
15 opment, including diagnostic tools to review and adjust instruction contin-  
16 uously, and the ability to identify students who need special help in read-  
17 ing. The district plan for in-service training in reading skills shall be  
18 submitted to the state department of education for review and approval, in a  
19 format specified by the department.

20 (45) A board-approved nontraditional educator preparation program  
21 that has a contract with a local education agency or consortium thereof  
22 to recruit, select, train, and retain teachers to teach in public schools  
23 that struggle to recruit and retain teachers may obtain funding from the  
24 state department of education, subject to appropriation or other available  
25 funds, provided that the program shall match no less than one hundred percent  
26 (100%) of any cost to the state for implementation. The board-approved pro-  
27 gram must have a documented history of recruiting, training, and retaining  
28 high-quality teachers who achieve above-average academic growth from stu-  
29 dents in Idaho and other states. The nontraditional educator preparation  
30 program may apply to the state department of education for available funding  
31 at the time one (1) or more teachers recruited by the program enters into an  
32 employment contract with a local education agency (LEA). The amount of fund-  
33 ing per teacher provided by the department to the program shall not exceed  
34 twenty-five percent (25%) of each teacher's annual salary for each year the  
35 program is providing services in support of the teacher. Such funding is  
36 limited to two (2) academic years per teacher. In order for the program to  
37 obtain funding from the department:

38 (a) The program and the LEA shall provide to the department verifica-  
39 tion of each teacher's fulfillment of the annual employment contract;  
40 and

41 (b) The program and the LEA shall provide verification that the LEA  
42 is providing funding to the program for recruiting and training each  
43 teacher in an amount equal to at least ten percent (10%) of the amount  
44 the department is providing to the program.

45 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
46 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after its  
47 passage and approval.