

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1306

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; PROVIDING LEGISLATIVE INTENT; AMENDING CHAPTER
2 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1637,
3 IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING PARENT-AS-TEACHER MODEL
4 MICROSCHOOLS, TO DEFINE TERMS, AND TO ESTABLISH PROGRAM AND FUNDING RE-
5 QUIREMENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.
6

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

8 SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature that
9 this act shall codify a current education practice in Idaho that allows a
10 school district to work with individual families to provide parent-deliv-
11 ered instruction in the student's home and to provide funds for educational
12 expenses. It is the intent of the Legislature that this practice continue
13 and be used by other school districts if they so choose.

14 SECTION 2. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
15 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
16 ignated as Section 33-1637, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

17 33-1637. MICROSCHOOLS -- PARENT-AS-TEACHER MODEL. (1) For purposes of
18 this section:

19 (a) "Alternative curriculum" means a curriculum or curricula different
20 in whole or in part from the curriculum offered by the local school dis-
21 trict or charter school. Parents may choose an alternative curriculum
22 of their choice, with or without a religious worldview.

23 (b) "Eligible expenses" means educational expenses, including the cost
24 of curriculum, education supplies, and tutoring.

25 (c) "Microschool" means schooling of a student or students from a sin-
26 gle family taught at home, using the parent-as-teacher model of fund-
27 ing, sponsored by a school district or charter school, which may or may
28 not use an alternative curriculum in any grade of kindergarten through
29 grade 8. Several families using the parent-as-teacher microschool
30 model may pool resources for group instruction or group activities.

31 (d) "Parent" means a biological parent or legal guardian of a student.

32 (e) "Parent-as-teacher model microschool" means an instructional
33 model in which a sponsoring school district assigns a teacher to work
34 with a parent or parents who are providing some or all of the instruction
35 to their children. In such a model, the sponsoring school district pro-
36 vides accountability measures such as required sampling of assignments
37 and state testing and the student must be enrolled in the sponsoring
38 school district for state funding purposes. The sponsoring school dis-
39 trict may reimburse the parent working in the parent-as-teacher model
40 for eligible expenses detailed in the district or charter school pol-
41 icy.

1 (f) "Sponsoring school district" means a public school district or
2 public charter school that sponsors a parent-as-teacher model mi-
3 croschool.

4 (2) A school district may enter into a microschool agreement with a par-
5 ent or parents who apply to create a microschool. Both parties must com-
6 ply with the conditions and procedures established in the microschool agree-
7 ment.

8 (3) The timeline for submission of applications shall be set by the
9 sponsoring school district. The application shall include:

10 (a) The names and grade levels of the students to be enrolled;

11 (b) The English, math, science, and social studies curricula chosen by
12 the parents. The school district shall not ratify the curricula but may
13 suggest ways to strengthen it to meet state content standards;

14 (c) Growth measures;

15 (d) The degree to which microschool students may use the sponsor-
16 ing school district's transportation, playground, facilities, af-
17 ter-school activities, special education, instruction in subjects
18 other than those taught in the microschool, or any other services; and

19 (e) The projected date upon which the microschool year will start and
20 end.

21 (4) A parent or parents of a single family may apply to the sponsor-
22 ing school district to engage in a parent-as-teacher model microschool.
23 Only school districts with a microschool policy in place may sponsor a mi-
24 croschool. The petitioned school district must indicate its willingness
25 to enter into a microschool agreement with an individual parent or parents
26 within sixty (60) days of the school district office receiving a fully com-
27 pleted application by the parents. If the school does not respond to the
28 request, the request shall be deemed denied.

29 (5) If the local school district does not have a policy in place to spon-
30 sor a microschool or does not wish to sponsor microschools, then a parent
31 or parents may petition another Idaho school district or charter school for
32 sponsorship.

33 (6) A school district that chooses not to enter into a microschool
34 agreement will receive no state funding for, and have no further obligations
35 for, a student enrolled in a microschool sponsored by another school dis-
36 trict as long as that student is enrolled in the microschool sponsored by
37 another school district.

38 (7) Students enrolled in a microschool will be enrolled in the spon-
39 soring school district for the purpose of calculating educational support
40 program funds apportioned to the sponsoring school district. A sponsoring
41 school district shall receive full per-student state funding for a student
42 enrolled in a parent-as-teacher microschool. The sponsoring school dis-
43 trict retains responsibility for special education services.

44 (8) Students in a microschool must take any required state testing.

45 SECTION 3. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
46 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
47 July 1, 2024.