

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, January 27, 2026

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Lent, Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Nichols, Carlson, Burtenshaw, Zito, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Senator Woodward

NOTE: The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

CONVENED: **Chairman Lent** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:01 p.m.

PASS THE GAVEL: Chairman Lent passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Cook

DOCKET NO. 08-0205-2501: **Rules Governing Pay for Success Contracting (ZBR Chapter Rewrite) - Pending Rule. Nicholas Wagner, Agency Rules Coordinator, Idaho State Board of Education,** presented a repeal of the entire rule because the rule was enacted in Idaho Code.

MOTION: **Senator Semmelroth** motioned to approve the rule. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 55-0103-2501: **Rules of Career Technical Centers - Pending Rule. Nicholas Wagner, Agency Rules Coordinator, Idaho State Board of Education,** presented the rule which removed duplicate language that was in federal statute. This rule also removed the word 'data' when it stood alone.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** motioned to approve the rule. **Senator Carlson** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 08-0202-2501: **Rules Governing Uniformity - Pending Rule. Nicholas Wagner and Greg Wilson, Chief of Staff, Idaho Department of Education,** presented the rule which abbreviated the State Board of Education to SBOE and added the word standard to the Career Technical Education Administrator Certificate. The remainder of the rule was for updating the ethical standard of teacher-student digital communication, clarification on the misuse of technological devices, and the misuse of school property.

MOTION: **Senator Ward-Engelking** motioned to approve the rule. **Senator Semmelroth** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-2503: **Rules Governing Thoroughness - Adoption of Temporary Rule. Greg Wilson, Chief of Staff, Idaho Department of Education,** presented the rule which updated the Special Education Manual to be in full compliance with special learning disabilities criteria in U.S. Code. **Mr. Wilson** asked for the temporary rule to be extended to June 30, 2026

DISCUSSION: **Senator Zito** asked if the change would allow preschool children at the age of three to be eligible instead of at the age of five. **Mr. Wilson** responded that was correct and to comply with a federal requirement. **Senator Zito** asked whether it was intended for a \$71 million grant would go directly to schools or have legislative oversight. **Mr. Wilson** was not familiar with the grant but the State Board of Education was responding to a federal government letter to bring the special education manual to compliance. **Senator Zito** asked if the compliance was to get the grant or not. **Mr. Wilson** answered that the Office of Special Education Programs letter was about being in compliance with requirements.

MOTION **Senator Burtenshaw** motioned to approve the rule. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**. **Senator Zito** requested that she be recorded as voting nay. .

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-2501: **Rules Governing Thoroughness - Pending Rule. Greg Wilson, Chief of Staff, Idaho Department of Education,** presented the rule which related to the changes in the Special Education Manual. The manual is 465 pages with most of the changes being grammatical. The State Board of Education approved the final updates in November 2025 after allowing public and industry comment.

DISCUSSION **Senator Semmelroth** asked if any updates to the manual were around specific eligibility or other changes. **Mr. Wilson** referred the question to the Special Education Director Jacqueline Hyatt. **Ms. Hyatt** answered that the manual hadn't been updated since 2004 and the updates were to specific learning disability changes and updates to dual enrollment standards to meet compliance. **Ms. Hyatt** further added the updates were mostly grammatical and to add more detail.

MOTION **Senator Burtenshaw** motioned to approve the rule. **Senator Ward-Engelking** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

DOCKET NO. 08-0203-2502: **Rule Governing Thoroughness - Pending Rule. Greg Wilson** presented the rule which updated the content standards for social studies. Idaho content standards are reviewed every six years and then brought to the Idaho Legislature. In 2024, the social studies content standards were rejected and Idaho State Department of Education was now re-presenting them. They revised the standards to make them more rigorous and detailed while creating a new standard about western civilization. The updated content standards would align with policy goals and expanded course offerings in high schools.

MOTION: **Senator Carlson** motioned to approve the rule. **Senator Nichols** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASS THE GAVEL: Vice Chairman Cook passed the gavel back to Chairman Lent.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Lent** adjourned the meeting at 3:32 p.m.

Senator Lent
Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary