

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 481

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-4802, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE LEG-
2 ISLATIVE FINDINGS; AND AMENDING SECTION 33-4804, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE
3 PROVISIONS REGARDING CERTAIN GRANTS.
4

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

6 SECTION 1. That Section 33-4802, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
7 amended to read as follows:

8 33-4802. FINDINGS. The legislature hereby finds, determines, and de-
9 clares that the state of Idaho recognizes the importance of applying tech-
10 nology to meet the public need for an improved, thorough, and seamless public
11 education system ~~for elementary and secondary education, education of the~~
12 ~~hearing or visually impaired, postsecondary and higher education and public~~
13 ~~libraries. The legislature has funded technology infrastructure to enable~~
14 ~~the state's public schools to have the necessary technology that supports~~
15 ~~student learning. However, many districts are unable to maximize the tech-~~
16 ~~nology infrastructure at the classroom level by adding digital curriculum.~~

17 SECTION 2. That Section 33-4804, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
18 amended to read as follows:

19 33-4804. PUBLIC SCHOOL ~~TECHNOLOGY~~ DIGITAL CURRICULUM GRANTS. (1)
20 There is hereby established the public school ~~technology~~ digital curriculum
21 block grant program, to be implemented by the state department of education,
22 which shall make available grants for schools to provide Idaho classrooms,
23 including classrooms at the Idaho bureau of educational services for the
24 deaf and the blind, with the ~~equipment and resources necessary to integrate~~
25 ~~information age technology with instruction and to further connect those~~
26 ~~classrooms with external telecommunications services. Grant applications~~
27 ~~shall include a project plan that describes proposed equipment and software~~
28 ~~purchases; how the proposed equipment and software will be used effectively~~
29 ~~in the classroom; provision for training teachers to make optimal use of the~~
30 ~~technology; and provision for local matching funds as prescribed~~ digital
31 curriculum that directly impacts student achievement and improves per-
32 formance. Curriculum programs should be designed to enhance outcomes for
33 students in career technical education, character education, enrichment ac-
34 tivities, reading and mathematics, activities that increase promotion from
35 grade to grade, or activities that enhance career and college readiness.

36 (2) The maximum amount of a grant award shall be fifty thousand dol-
37 lars (\$50,000). Grants shall be awarded on a first-come, first-served ba-
38 sis to local education agencies (LEAs) that meet the criteria outlined in
39 this subsection, except that priority shall be given to LEAs reporting the
40 highest number of economically disadvantaged students as defined in section

1 31-1001, Idaho Code, and to LEAs in different regions of the state. Two (2)
2 or more LEAs may apply jointly for a grant. To qualify for the grant, an LEA
3 must:

4 (a) Have technology infrastructure in place to facilitate usage of the
5 digital curriculum; and

6 (b) Submit an explanation for how the funding will be used to improve
7 performance and enhance student achievement. Explanations should in-
8 clude:

9 (i) The type of curriculum to be purchased;

10 (ii) How the curriculum will assist the LEA in meeting its identi-
11 fied measurable targets from its continuous improvement plan, as
12 described in section 33-320, Idaho Code; and

13 (iii) How the curriculum will measure progress.

14 (3) At the end of the grant period, recipients shall submit to the state
15 department of education an explanation of:

16 (a) The curriculum purchased; and

17 (b) If the curriculum purchased was successful in helping the LEA or
18 LEAs meet the objectives identified in the original explanation.