

IN THE SENATE

SENATE BILL NO. 1238

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-1602, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE  
2 THAT STUDENTS MAY SATISFY STATE CIVICS AND GOVERNMENT STANDARDS THROUGH  
3 PARTICIPATION IN A CERTAIN COURSE AND EXAMINATION, TO PROVIDE THAT THE  
4 STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR CERTAIN  
5 PURPOSES, SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION, AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS;  
6 AMENDING SECTION 33-6102, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A REQUIREMENT FOR FLEX-  
7 IBLE SCHEDULES; AND AMENDING SECTION 33-6104, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE A  
8 REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY GRADUATION.  
9

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

11 SECTION 1. That Section 33-1602, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
12 amended to read as follows:

13 33-1602. UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION -- NATIONAL FLAG AND COLORS -- NA-  
14 TIONAL ANTHEM -- "AMERICA" -- CITIZENSHIP -- CIVICS TEST. (1) Instruction in  
15 the Constitution of the United States shall be given in all elementary and  
16 secondary schools. The state board of education shall adopt such materi-  
17 als as may be deemed necessary for said purpose, and shall also determine the  
18 grades in which such instruction shall be given.

19 (2) Instruction in the proper use, display and history of and respect  
20 for the American flag and the national colors shall be given in all elemen-  
21 tary and secondary schools. Such instruction shall include the pledge of al-  
22 legiance to the flag, and the words and music of the national anthem, and of  
23 "America."

24 (3) Every school board of trustees shall cause the United States flag to  
25 be displayed in every classroom during the school hours of each school day.

26 (4) Every public school shall offer the pledge of allegiance or the na-  
27 tional anthem in grades 1 through 12 at the beginning of each school day.

28 (5) No pupil shall be compelled, against the pupil's objections or  
29 those of the pupil's parent or guardian, to recite the pledge of allegiance  
30 or to sing the national anthem.

31 (6) Instruction in citizenship shall be given in all elementary and  
32 secondary schools. Citizenship instruction shall include lessons on the  
33 role of a citizen in a constitutional republic, how laws are made, how of-  
34 ficials are elected, and the importance of voting and of participating in  
35 government. Such instruction shall also include the importance of respect-  
36 ing and obeying statutes which that are validly and lawfully enacted by the  
37 Idaho legislature and the congress of the United States.

38 (7) Starting with the 2016-2017 school year, all secondary pupils must  
39 show they have met the state civics and government standards for such in-  
40 struction through the successful completion of the civics test, participa-  
41 tion in a course in United States government and politics and participation  
42 in an associated college credit-bearing examination, or alternate path es-

1 tablished by the local school district or charter school that shows the stu-  
 2 dent has met the standards. Assessment of standards shall be included as  
 3 part of the course at the secondary level. A school district or public char-  
 4 ter school shall document on the pupil's transcript that the pupil has passed  
 5 the civics test pursuant to this subsection. The school district or govern-  
 6 ing body of the charter school may determine the method and manner in which  
 7 to administer the civics test. A pupil may take the civics test, in whole  
 8 or in part, at any time after enrolling in grade 7 and may repeat the test as  
 9 often as necessary to pass the test. The applicability of this subsection  
 10 to a pupil who receives special education services shall be governed by such  
 11 pupil's individualized education plan. For the purposes of this subsection,  
 12 "civics test" means the one hundred (100) questions used by officers of the  
 13 United States citizenship and immigration services as a basis for selecting  
 14 the questions posed to applicants for naturalization, in order that the ap-  
 15 plicants can demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals  
 16 of United States history and the principles and form of United States govern-  
 17 ment, as required by 8 U.S.C. section 1423. The state board of education may  
 18 promulgate rules implementing the provisions of this subsection.

19 (8) Subject to state-appropriated funds, the state department of  
 20 education shall make available funding for high quality professional de-  
 21 velopment focused on advanced high school civics or government courses,  
 22 including those with college credit-bearing civics or government examina-  
 23 tions. Allowable expenses include summer institutes offered at different  
 24 sites throughout the state and workshops to help high school teachers pre-  
 25 pare students for success in college-level courses.

26 SECTION 2. That Section 33-6102, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
 27 amended to read as follows:

28 33-6102. FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE. (1) A student is eligible to take a flexi-  
 29 ble schedule as provided in subsection (2) of this section if the student:

- 30 (a) Is at least sixteen (16) years of age;
- 31 (b) Maintains a cumulative 3.5 grade point average;
- 32 (c) Obtains permission from a parent or guardian, if under the age of  
 33 eighteen (18) years;
- 34 (d) Achieves a college and career readiness score;
- 35 (e) Files with the student's school:
  - 36 (i) Notification of the student's intent to take a flexible  
 37 schedule;
  - 38 (ii) The student's participation portfolio; and
  - 39 (iii) An essay of at least one (1) page explaining why the student  
 40 wishes to have a flexible schedule and outlining the student's fu-  
 41 ture plans using such flexible schedule; and
- 42 (f) Completes:
  - 43 (i) The civics test ~~required by~~ requirement in section 33-1602,  
 44 Idaho Code; and
  - 45 (ii) The economics credit, government credits, and senior project  
 46 required under the board's graduation requirements, provided that  
 47 the student's senior project may describe the student's experi-  
 48 ence in achieving a college and career readiness score and include  
 49 a detailed explanation of the student's future plans.

1 (2) An eligible student may, at the student's option and upon notifica-  
 2 tion to the student's school, be relieved from completing any remaining high  
 3 school graduation requirements. Such student shall have flexibility in the  
 4 student's schedule to:

5 (a) Take elective courses, career technical education programs, or  
 6 core courses as selected by the student and determined to be available  
 7 by the student's school district or public charter school;

8 (b) Participate in apprenticeships or internships;

9 (c) Act as a tutor at any grade level; or

10 (d) Engage in such other activities as identified by the board.

11 (3) A student with a flexible schedule must adhere to the plans de-  
 12 scribed pursuant to subsection (1)(e) of this section. If the student is  
 13 under the age of eighteen (18) years, the student's plans may be modified  
 14 with the approval of the student's parent or guardian.

15 SECTION 3. That Section 33-6104, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby  
 16 amended to read as follows:

17 33-6104. EARLY GRADUATION. (1) A student is eligible to graduate early  
 18 as provided in subsection (2) of this section if the student:

19 (a) Is at least sixteen (16) years of age;

20 (b) Maintains a cumulative 3.5 grade point average;

21 (c) Obtains permission from a parent or guardian, if under the age of  
 22 eighteen (18) years;

23 (d) Achieves a college and career readiness score;

24 (e) Files with the student's school:

25 (i) Notification of the student's intent to graduate early;

26 (ii) The student's participation portfolio; and

27 (iii) An essay of at least one (1) page explaining why the student  
 28 wishes to graduate early and outlining the student's future educa-  
 29 tion or training plans if the student graduates early; and

30 (f) Completes:

31 (i) The civics ~~test required by~~ requirement in section 33-1602,  
 32 Idaho Code; and

33 (ii) The economics credit, government credits, and senior project  
 34 required under the board's graduation requirements, provided that  
 35 the student's senior project may describe the student's experi-  
 36 ence in achieving a college and career readiness score and include  
 37 a detailed explanation of the student's future plans.

38 (2) An eligible student may, at the student's option and upon notifica-  
 39 tion to the student's school, be relieved from completing any remaining high  
 40 school graduation requirements and graduate early.

41 (3) School districts or public charter schools must grant high school  
 42 diplomas to students who are eligible and opt for early graduation pursuant  
 43 to this section.