

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members.

For the record, I'm Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Chief of Staff and Sr. Special Assistant for Education for Governor Otter.

As you know, education remains the Governor's top budget priority. I'll run through a few highlights of what the Governor has recommended to continue the focus on student growth and achievement in Idaho's K through Career education system. While not all of these are necessarily "different" some will take a different approach this year.

The Governor is recommending more than \$101 million in new funding for an increase of just over 6% for K-12 schools.

While the Task Force recommendations are not new initiatives, there are still areas the Governor recommends for additional investments.

Mastery-based Education - \$1,400,000. This funds a second phase to expand the Mastery Education Network.

Technology - \$10,000,000. This would bring the state to \$36m – still well short of the TF rec of \$60m. Use of devices and a blended learning model are part of the mastery-based model Idaho is seeking to create.

Professional Development - \$4,000,000. We continue to hear from educators that getting closer to one-to-one devices for students is critical and that time for teacher PD and collaboration is a necessity.

College and Career Counseling - \$5,000,000. Both the Governor's Workforce Development Task Force and Higher Education Task Force recommended consolidating and centralizing college and career advising tools identified. The Governor is proposing to transfer the Career Information System from the Department of Labor to the Office of the State Board of Education (OSBE). OSBE already plays a significant role in aiding students as they prepare for life after high school through coordination of statewide college-to-career activities and its Next Steps Idaho initiative and website. CIS will complement and enhance OSBE's efforts to provide tools for college and career planning to students, school districts, and public postsecondary institutions. It will also eliminate duplicative efforts across state agencies.

Literacy Phase Two - \$6,500,000. The funding approved by the Legislature two years ago addressed only those students who scored below basic, or at the very lowest level on the state's reading indicator. For the 2017-2018 school year, there were more than 19,500 students who scored at the basic level (still below proficient).

The Governor is continuing his focus on STEM with a recommendation of \$2,000,000 for another year of the STEM Action Center's Computer Science Initiative to support efforts to ensure that all students are learning computational thinking skills essential for their success in tomorrow's increasingly technology driven economy. Idaho is nationally recognized by Code.org as one of 4 "lighthouse" states (WA, CT, AR) who are setting policies to advance CS instruction.

In the higher education budget, the Governor's recommendations reflect the recommendation of the Higher Education Task Force that funding be student-centric and focused on system-wide needs.

The Governor recommends a new position at the State Board of Education and \$500,000 is for a consultant to assess and scope how to create an integrated higher education system for the purpose of eliminating inefficiencies and generating cost savings. Part of this integrated system will include the implementation of a shared services operation to support back office functions including information technology, finance, human resources, and procurement across higher education.

An additional \$5,000,000 for the Opportunity Scholarship. The Governor is taking a different approach this year to address adult completers. You will see legislation to amend the Opportunity scholarship that would allow the SBOE to use up to 20% of the funds appropriated to the Opportunity Scholarship to support adults returning to finish a certificate or degree.

A Degree Audit/Data Analytics System. This funding is to implement a degree audit and data analytics system, as recommended by the Higher Education Task Force, that will enable early identification of students who need additional support or guidance and help students track their progress toward degree completion.

To create more focused attention on the state's workforce needs, the Governor has proposed creating the Workforce Development Council in the Office of the Governor. The Council will have additional industry representatives to help ensure that the state's efforts are aligned with workforce needs as well as carrying out the federal Workforce Innovations and Opportunity Act requirements as well as the intent of the Workforce Development Training Fund, including the deployment of grants for training and retraining needs of the Idaho workforce.

Expanding Career Technical Education to seventh and eighth graders will result in greater skill development and career preparation for post-secondary credits, industry certifications, and apprenticeship programs.

Career Technical Education Secondary Incentive Funding to expand CTE programs in business management and marketing, engineering and technology, family consumer sciences, health sciences, and skilled and technical sciences.

Additional support to enhance the efforts of the regional Workforce Training Centers

The Governor remains committed to addressing the shortage of physicians and medical residencies in Idaho.

To address the shortage of mental health professionals in Idaho, the Governor has recommended funding to support psychiatric residency programs.

He is also recommending creating 10 medical residency seats at the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center and state funding for residency seats at the Bingham Internal Medicine Program

I would be happy to meet with you at any time to answer questions or provide more information and I look forward to working with you. Thank you Mr. Chairman for this time.