

MINUTES  
JOINT MEETING  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** WW02
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Woodward, Lent, Johnson, Cook, Ward-Engelking, and Nelson  
Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, and Toone
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- 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 Thayn** called the joint meeting of the Senate and House Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:02 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Debbie Critchfield**, President, Idaho State Board of Education (Board) started the presentation titled "Statewide Assessments and Federal Accountability Requirements" (see Attachment 1).
- DISCUSSION:** **Representative Berch** voiced concerns about removing exams or reducing assessment requirements, asking if it would put Idaho students at a disadvantage when competing with students in other states. **Ms. Critchfield** said it would not put Idaho students at a disadvantage; the goal is to streamline testing and assessment, and make the processes easier. **Representative Shepherd** asked about assessment testing for 11th graders and how to motivate them to take the test. **Ms. Critchfield** said there is no plan to incentivize the students but many recognize the merit of taking the test and doing well.
- PRESENTATION:** **Sherry Ybarra**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Idaho State Board of Education, continued the presentation. The Committee members did not ask any questions after Ms. Ybarra's presentation.
- PRESENTATION:** **Kevin Whitman**, Director, Assessment and Accountability, Idaho State Board of Education, completed the presentation (see Attachments 2, 3).
- DISCUSSION:** **Chairman Thayn** asked what feedback concerning the interim Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) assessment test was received. **Mr. Whitman** said so far the teacher feedback has been positive. **Representative Kerby** asked if there is flexibility in designing tests so they are more user-friendly, for teachers. **Mr. Whitman** said there was. **Representative Shepherd** said feedback he received from Idaho Teachers indicated they are not in favor of ASVAB testing due to the time it takes for a student to complete the test, testing poor readers unfairly, and the struggle that students without good typing skills encounter with the test. **Mr. Whitman** said there are alternative testing programs available.

**Representative Ehardt** asked what testing is used on home-schooled children. **Mr. Whitman** said their parents are allowed to use any testing platform they want. **Representative Berch** asked when the new assessment tools will be implemented. **Mr. Whitman** said once content standards are approved, the three-year clock will start, and that it will be an aggressive time frame. **Chairman Clow** asked who sits on the peer review committee. **Mr. Whitman** said the peer may change for every test and the Board does not select the members of the peer review committee.

**Chairman Clow** asked about letting students pick the test they want to take instead of mandating which test they need to take by the end of high school. **Ms. Critchfield** agreed, saying the long-term goal would be for students to pick the test they want to take prior to graduation. **Senator Lent** asked why assessments needed to be changed when what is needed is alignment of three core issues: assessments, achievement, and curriculum. **Ms. Ybarra** said that a curriculum review committee was formed and is working on this issue.

**ADJOURNED:** There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Thayn** adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.

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Senator Thayn  
Chair

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Florence Lince  
Secretary