

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

- DATE:** Thursday, January 26, 2017
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Crabtree, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- 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 Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- PRESENTATION: Eastern Idaho Technical College (EITC). Dr. Rick Aman**, President presented to the Committee an overview of the work of EITC. He specified the 10 counties EITC serves and highlighted its importance to Idaho National Laboratories (INL). He spoke about the current and past demographic make-up of the students EITC serves and detailed the remediation work that is needed for students to achieve (see Attachment 1). **Dr. Aman** provided information regarding the degrees and certificates that are offered and said they have a 100 percent pass rate for the nursing licensures and elaborated on the accountability process to meet state criteria.
- Dr. Aman** said the Career Technical Education (CTE) program has created new faculty positions and is responding to industry demands with the new funding they have received which has raised the capacity and allowed for more student enrollment.
- Dr. Aman** told the Committee the Governor's Office is endorsing the transition of EITC from a technical school to a community college. He highlighted the study's findings, building plans and ways students can be served. He said a new community college in Eastern Idaho will benefit the State.
- Senator Winder** said he has been on campus and complimented Dr. Aman on the educational programs at EITC. He asked if there is community support for the bond to support a community college. **Dr. Aman** replied he has not had any push back. He said the big misnomer is that the CTE aspect of the school will no longer be available.
- Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if religious missions are a factor in the "Go On" rate for Idaho. **Dr. Aman** replied in the affirmative. He stated BYU-Idaho would like to have a community college in the region to help with their enrollment overload. **Senator Ward-Engelking** asked if the "Go On" rate for returning missionaries is being tracked. **Dr. Aman** replied he is not aware of any follow-up with that group.
- Chairman Mortimer** thanked Dr. Aman for the presentation and expressed his optimism for the May bond election.

PRESENTATION: Career Technical Education (CTE), Dwight Johnson, State Administrator, introduced his staff and presented the work of CTE. He said the demand for skilled worker is a serious challenge and reported to the Committee the Department of Labor's skills "gap" projection (see Attachment 2). He told about the different schools and school districts where CTE certification is available. He elaborated on the areas of certification which are in the following areas: agriculture and natural resources; family and consumer sciences; health sciences; engineering and technology; business management and marketing; and skilled and technical sciences. An associate or a tech certificate fills the many job positions in those career fields. **Mr. Johnson** explained those employees often have the opportunity through their employer to continue their education and obtain a bachelor's degree; often paid for by their employer. CTE meets the needs for the high demand for high skill and high wage careers.

Mr. Johnson elaborated on the three value statements for CTE: 1.) connect students to real careers; 2.) provide a talent pipeline for Idaho businesses; and 3.) make education meaningful through applied learning. He played a video about a CTE student which demonstrated those values.

Mr. Johnson said the other major goal of CTE is to connect the secondary schools CTE programs with the post-secondary CTE programs. He spoke about an alignment program and detailed a developed program called Idaho SkillStack in partnership with Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA). He explained the awarding of badges as students become competent in specific areas. He said as more badges are achieved a student can eventually earn a CTE certificate or college credits.

Mr. Johnson said the State has received \$1.4 million in federal grants to increase registered apprenticeship programs to be used in non-traditional areas such as: healthcare; information technology; and advanced technology. The distribution of funds is in partnership with the Department of Labor. He explained there is a need for more trade associations and industry employers to participate. He said rather than the traditional age of 18, students can now begin an apprenticeship at 16.

Mr. Johnson said access to CTE programs are being expanded in the rural areas of the state with "live" online learning making distance learning available. That was launched with IDLA and with over 1,000 students participation in five courses. He stated there is a teacher shortage in CTE and explained the difficulty is recruiting and retaining quality instructors. He said extra funding is being used to remedy the problem.

Mr. Johnson concluded his presentation by detailing Governor's proposals that will expand CTE opportunities: 1.) Adult Completer Scholarship; 2.) College & Career Advising; 3.) CTE facility at Lewis-Clark State College; 4.) Eastern Idaho Technical College transition to a community college; 5.) Governor's Workforce Development Task Force; and 6.) Workforce Development Training Fund.

Vice Chairman Thayn expressed his concern about educational access for the smaller communities in Idaho and is glad to hear about the online track for CTE coursework. **Mr. Johnson** expanded on the different courses that are available online and how students fulfill the skills requirement.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the SkillStack and badge concept will be transferred into the traditional education track. **Mr. Johnson** replied the belief is that future education will become more competency based.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the Adult Completer Scholarship is the only scholarship available to returning students. **Mr. Johnson** replied Idaho is deficient in the amount of scholarship aid that is provided to students. He explained how the financial hurdle keeps people from seeking post-secondary education and how the proposed scholarship is a good return on the State's investment.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

RS 25037

Relating to Education; To Remove a Requirement for a Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant. To Revise the Duty of the Bate Board of Education, and Make Technical Corrections. Chairman Mortimer presented **RS 25037**. He explained this is a modification to the Broadband Infrastructure Investment Grant (BIIG) Fund. He said as the SDE has gone to help schools there is resistance from the federal government and explained the changes being made are in striking and changing wording.

MOTION:

Senator Nonini moved to send **RS 25037** to print. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

RS 24875

Relating to Educational Data System Security; Amend, Adopt Rules, Revise Definition, Clarity, and Make Technical Corrections. Blake Youde, Chief Communications and Legislative Affairs Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **RS 24875**. He said this strengthens and protects the reporting of student data in the educational data system. He explained the changes are in terminology to provide consistency and to prevent confusion in this section of code. It clarifies the SBE can take action if student data is misused, and how and where student educational data is to be stored. He explained the definition for personally identifiable data has been amended to deter the ability to request identifiable student data. He explained to the Committee possible data breaches. The final change is that the data system is maintained securely at all times and the encryption methods are maintained: in line with best practices.

MOTION:

Vice Chairman Thayn moved to send **RS 24875** to print. **Senator Crabtree** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

PASSED THE GAVEL:

Chairman Mortimer passed the gavel to Vice Chairman Thayn.

DOCKET NO. 08.0203.1606

Rules Governing thoroughness Incorporated by Reference – Achievement Level Descriptors. Tim McMurtrey, Deputy Superintendent of Operations, State Department of Education (SDE), presented **Docket No. 08.0203.1606**. He explained the SBE approved a reversion to the Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT). He explained the changes in the standards include the proficiency level descriptors and the ISAT achievement levels at each performance level for each grade. He said in order to clarify the description and avoid confusion, the term "standards" has been changed to level descriptors. He stated the new achievement level cut-scores for the ISAT are reflected in document which is incorporated by reference. He asked Karlynn Laraway, Director, Assessments, SDE, to outline for the Committee the descriptors changes in the incorporated by reference document.

Ms. Laraway said cut-scores are selected points on the score scale of the tests used to determine achievement levels such as: basic, proficient, and advanced. She said discussing achievement level descriptors is providing teachers an explanation of what students are expected to demonstrate at each assessment level at each grade level. The changes in the incorporated by reference document and the achievement level descriptors are the expansion of achievement level descriptors in grade levels 9 and 10 and in mathematics.

Chairman Mortimer asked why the thresholds were added in grade 9, since that is not a grade level required by the State to be tested. **Ms. Laraway** explained those reflect the instruction processes. The assessments in grade 9 and 10 show what progress has been made. **Chairman Mortimer** asked how the achievement level descriptors tie in with the content standards. **Ms. Laraway** replied the achievement level descriptors set expectation to what students are expected to accomplish determined by the specific descriptor targets. She said the descriptors are aligned to the standards that drive student instruction.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked who develops the descriptors. **Ms. Laraway** replied the membership of the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC); Idaho educators are part of that group.

Senator Den Hartog asked if the addition of the grades 9 and 10 descriptors will modify the material being taught or if it will add additional assessments. **Ms. Laraway** replied in the negative. She stated the descriptors are only a reflection of what students have learned.

Chairman Mortimer asked how and who changed the cut-scores. **Ms. Laraway** explained the cut-score levels in the manual. She said they were developed by educators in the State.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked where the changes occur. **Ms. Laraway** stated the changes reflect the additions of the performance level descriptors in grades 9 and 10 for math and then the achievement level cut-score changes.

Chairman Mortimer asked if the math assessments have been given in the past to grades 9 and 10. **Ms. Laraway** replied in the affirmative. She explained ninth grade assessment test is optional but it is important to have a cut-score to establish an achievement level so the students receive a valid score and a score report that is informative.

Vice Chairman Thayn asked who decides if ninth graders will take the assessment tests. **Ms. Laraway** replied the local public school districts make that decision with the support from the SDE.

Senator Ward-Engelking expressed her concern regarding the time that is allocated for test taking. She wondered how informative the data is because by the time the results are returned to the teachers the students are no longer in their class. **Ms. Laraway** acknowledged the feedback. She said the SDE is working to reduce the testing time concerns and stated the assessment testing results are now available in 10 days.

MOTION:

Senator Den Hartog moved to accept **Docket No. 08.0203.1606**. **Chairman Mortimer** seconded the motion. The motion passed by **voice vote**.

**DOCKET NO.
08.0201.1602**

Rules Governing Administration – Continuous Improvement Plans. Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer, State Board of Education (SBE), presented **Docket No. 08.0201.1602**. She said this docket was first reviewed last week. During the discussion questions and concerns were brought forward in regards to the continuous improvement plan and the statewide matrix within the plan. **Ms. Bent** said the specific requirements in the continuous improvement plan are required to be set by the SBE by the Idaho Code Section which created the continuous improvement plan. The measures picked by SBE are in the information currently being collected by the school districts: no additional burden has been placed on the school districts. The plans provide for flexibility in the reporting. The plans provide additional information with the numbers. Rather than just reporting numbers, the school districts can now report context to support the information. **Ms. Bent** said the feedback from school districts has been positive regarding the new way to report. The SBE provides a template but it is not required. The report sizes vary depending on the district. The SBE allows for the school districts to submit all the mandated reports on a single consolidated plan.

Ms. Bent said in school districts there is a varying degree of how to properly use data. The Governor's Task Force met and required these plans so that school districts would use and have a better understanding of student data and how to address any educational concerns. She said having the plans located in SBE offices offers school districts the ability to access information to develop and improve their plans from the information they can glean. From state policy perspective, the plans are beneficial to assess if the policies are meeting the intended goals.

Senator Ward-Engelking said in subsection .05 and .06, in regards to the annual literacy intervention plan and the college and career advising, both have statutes that already requires reporting. The rules as they are written require broader reporting and some duplication. She asked if **Ms. Bent** could explain the extra reporting. **Ms. Bent** replied there is some duplication due to feedback from school districts. They asked that all the reporting requirements be listed in one place for ease of accessing information. The focus for subsections 5 and 6 concern minimal formatting and consistency for reporting. She said Idaho Code states there must be a special model or template for reporting.

Senator Ward-Engelking said the issues raised seem to be about local control. She asked why the data and reports are to be sent back to the SBE. **Ms. Bent** replied the two particular sections, Idaho Codes § 33-1616 and § 33-1212a specifically require those plans be sent to the SBE; it is a statutory requirement.

MOTION:

Senator Ward-Engelking moved to accept **Docket No: 08.0201.1602** with the exception of sections **08.0201.1602.05 and .06**. **Senator Guthrie** seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION:

Senator Ward-Engelking said there is already a process in place in the statutes to send the information back to the SBE. The rules are requiring school districts to duplicate paperwork. This section of the docket is an unfunded mandate.

Chairman Mortimer asked in regards to sections .05 and .06 which of the subsections are not required in the standards. **Ms. Bent** read aloud the Idaho Code § 33-1616 which supported submission of the reading intervention plan to the SBE, and also states that the SBE is to promulgate rules for the provisions of the section of code and the specifics that are to be included in the rules. She explained that the goal of the rules is to consolidate the information in one place, for the ease and conciseness of reporting. **Ms. Bent** read aloud Idaho Code § 33-1212a which requires the SBE promulgate rules to specify the student outcomes to support continued funding per the requirement of the statute. **Chairman Mortimer** asked if all of Section .05 as written are required by Idaho Code. **Ms. Bent** replied the language in the statute is broader than the rules. She said the rules specify how to meet the statute requirements.

Senator Nonini asked why the SBE needs to know the expenditures of a plan the school districts will use for the upcoming year, based on the rule requirements in Section .05.b and .c. **Ms. Bent** replied the requirement is to show the funding was to expand programs and not benefit ongoing funding. She explained budget and funding information are more enlightening as to what the school districts are actually implementing.

Vice Chairman Thayn stated he will not be supporting the motion. He said these rules come from Idaho Code which was passed in the 2016 legislative year and he believes there is value to administrators having all the reporting requirements detailed in one place and specified clearly, rather than scattered throughout the Code. This section of the docket adds clarity as to how to implement the laws that are passed.

Chairman Mortimer stated he will not be supporting motion. He said data collection and use is complicated and believes the rule should be passed and then a study group be established to better determine the proper use of data by the SBE and public school districts.

Senator Winder said in reviewing the legislation and the rules to support the legislation the decision is difficult. He stated he will not support the motion.

A roll call vote was called by **Vice Chairman Thayn**. **Senators Nonini, Den Hartog, Guthrie, Buckner-Webb,** and **Ward-Engelking** voted aye. **Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder,** and **Crabtree** voted nay. The motion passed.

**PASSED THE
GAVEL:**

Vice Chairman Thayn passed the gavel to Chairman Mortimer.

ADJOURNED:

There being no more business, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4.54 p.m.

Senator Dean M. Mortimer
Chair

LeAnn Mohr
Secretary