

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

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 23, 2021

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Lincoln Auditorium

**MEMBERS:** Chairman Clow, Vice Chairman Kerby, Representatives Boyle, Mendive, DeMordaunt, Moon, Ehardt, Marshall, Wisniewski, Galloway, Shepherd, Yamamoto, McCrostie, Berch, Toone

Chairman Thayn, Vice Chairman Crabtree, Senators Den Hartog, Woodward, Lent, Johnson, Cook, Ward-Engelking, Nelson

**ABSENT/  
EXCUSED:** None

**GUESTS:** President Debbie Critchfield, State Board of Education (SBOE); Tracie Bent, Chief Planning and Policy Officer SBOE; Mike Keckler, Executive Director SBOE; Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra; Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications & Policy; Kevin Whitman, Director of Assessment and Accountability SDE; Donte Harrington, citizen; Jasmine Vega, citizen

**Senator Thayn** called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m.

**President Critchfield**, State Board of Education presented current assessment testing. She serves on the Accountability and Oversight Committee which reviews assessments and recommends there is only one assessment administered during high school, preferably in eleventh grade. In response to committee questions, Pres. Critchfield stated removing requirements for some standardized tests would not negatively impact Idaho students' ability to achieve higher education.

**Superintendent Ybarra** addressed the new standards and assessments which will be in alignment once adopted. The new assessments will be administered for the first time in spring 2021. The goal of state assessment is to measure accountability with precision and relevant learning, not just a snapshot in time during a student's education.

**Kevin Whitman**, Director of Assessment and Accountability SDE, discussed federal and statewide assessment requirements and how they've changed progressively into the current assessments. Standards must measure performance with 95% participation, align with state content standards, and meet peer review requirements for quality. SBAC, Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium, is a comprehensive assessment system used for its progress-monitoring quality. In answer to committee questions, Mr. Whitman stated SBAC has received some complaints but schools are able to customize features to make the test a more appropriate length. The Idaho assessment plan includes assessments from NCSC, the National Center State Collaborative. New assessment standards for science were enacted in 2018. Technical considerations must also meet peer review standards. He stated each assessment test has adoption of content standards, writing licensing, standards alignment, field testing, and accessibility. Each time a new assessment is adopted, it must be evaluated for two years.

**Pres. Critchfield** answered committee questions regarding the plan to make assessments within federal restraints relevant. Increasing student achievement requires curriculum and standards assessment be in alignment.

**Sup. Ybarra** serves on the Curriculum Review Committee and will be providing periodic updates.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

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Representative Clow  
Chair

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Christine Reynolds  
Secretary