

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, April 12, 2021

TIME: 8:30 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

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

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Reps. Boyle, DeMordaunt and Moon

GUESTS: Matt Freeman, Executive Director of the State Board of Education (SBOE); Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent Communications & Policy, State Department of Education (SDE); Karen Seay, Director of Federal Programs SDE; Julie Oberle Chief Financial Officer SDE; Tim McMurtrey, Deputy Superintendent of Operations SDE

Chairman Clow called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

MOTION: **Representative Toone** made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2021 meeting. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Matt Freeman, SBOE, presented information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Programs which are designed to address student learning loss caused by the pandemic. Plans include intervention plans, summer enrichment programs, after school programs, and emergency and administrative costs. In answer to committee questions, Mr. Freeman indicated the funds are coming from the Federal Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) III fund. The spending authority is within FY2022 with carryover into FY2023. The State Education Authority (SEA) for Idaho is the State Board of Education, dealing directly with the federal government. Federal program funds under the Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplement Act (CRRSA) could not be used to cover losses, however the ARPA funds are allowed to be used to cover pandemic-related lost revenue. Higher education institutions report approximately \$91,828,000 in lost revenue. (Attachment 1)

Karen Seay, SDE, indicated the CRRSA is the source of ESSER I and II funds. She stated some Local Education Authorities (LEA's) have not drawn the emergency relief funds available to them. In answer to committee questions regarding challenges smaller LEA's face in accessing the funds, Ms. Seay stated her office is available to assist LEA's through the application process. LEA's cannot access ESSER II funds until their ESSER I funds are spent.

Marilyn Whitney, SDE, stated her office offers webinars to help smaller districts and charter schools understand how to access the funds. LEA's are able to request funds weekly. In answer to committee questions regarding if the SDE could distribute the funds, Ms. Whitney stated the funds must be requested and tracked by the LEA.

Ms. Seay stated each LEA receives funds based on the Title I proportion from the State. Federal funds are identified as earmarked for "learning loss" without specific direction. LEA's are required to post a plan to have students back in school in person. LEA's are also required to share a Maintenance of Equity Plan as well as a Maintenance of Effort Plan. These plans are based on data averages and constructed in coordination with the SDE. Non-public schools are also able to apply for emergency assistance funds. Funds have also been allocated for individuals who qualify for special assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), in order to address the pandemic impact on students already in special education programs.

Marilyn Whitney presented Performance Metrics for Learning Loss funding. The Governor's Office has allocated approximately \$20,000,000 to support learning loss intervention for current students beginning this summer. All of the funds must be used by December 31st, 2021. K-4 eligible students are identified as scoring below grade level, whereas K-12 students will be eligible if identified as being at risk of not performing at grade level. Student outcomes will be measured by State standardized testing.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Representative Clow
Chair

Christine Reynolds
Secretary