

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 493

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1620, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR A MASTERY ADVANCEMENT PILOT PROGRAM; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1621, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1622, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN ASSESSMENTS; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1623, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR A MASTERY ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP, TO PROVIDE CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS, TO PROVIDE FOR CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT OR ADVANCED PLACEMENT CLASSES, TO PROVIDE PROVISIONS RELATING TO A CERTAIN SCHOLARSHIP, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN REPORTS, TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN SAVINGS, TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTS AND TO DIRECT COLLABORATION; AND AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1624, IDAHO CODE, TO PROVIDE FOR RULES.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the Legislature to provide a variety of avenues to help Idaho students succeed in school. The Legislature's duty to maintain a thorough system of public schools is only strengthened by employing new and innovative approaches to help ensure that more young people successfully complete grades 1-12 curriculum prepared for good-paying careers, postsecondary educational success or both. Idaho's economic future rests on the ability of an educated workforce to excel in today's complex and demanding workplace. To help ensure student success, the Legislature believes that a Pilot Program, a revenue neutral Pilot Program, designed to permit students to successfully complete school curriculum at their own accelerated pace, is warranted to study the efficacy of such an approach.

SECTION 2. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1620, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

33-1620. MASTERY ADVANCEMENT PILOT PROGRAM. There is hereby established a pilot project to be known as the "Mastery Advancement Pilot Program," hereinafter referred to as "the program." This program shall permit certain students in certain Idaho public schools, including Idaho public charter schools, to successfully proceed through school curriculum at their own pace.

SECTION 3. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated as Section 33-1621, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

1 33-1621. PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS. (1) No more than twenty-one (21)  
 2 school districts and no more than three (3) charter schools may participate  
 3 in the program. Participating districts shall be determined through an  
 4 application process established by the state department of education.

5 (2) The program shall be divided into three (3) geographical regions of  
 6 the state in the following manner:

7 (a) Region I shall be comprised of Idaho high school activities  
 8 association regions I and II;

9 (b) Region II shall be comprised of Idaho high school activities  
 10 association region III; and

11 (c) Region III shall be comprised of Idaho high school activities  
 12 association regions IV, V and VI.

13 (3) Participating school districts shall reflect the disparate sizes  
 14 of school districts within this state. Participating school districts shall  
 15 be selected in the following manner:

16 (a) Any school district and any charter school desiring to participate  
 17 in the program shall submit an application to the state department of  
 18 education by September 1, 2010. Such application shall be developed  
 19 by the state department of education and shall be made available to the  
 20 state's school districts and charter schools by July 15, 2010. From the  
 21 applicants, the department shall select:

22 (i) Three (3) school districts, one (1) from each program region,  
 23 that have grades 1-12 enrollment of more than seven thousand  
 24 (7,000) students;

25 (ii) Six (6) school districts, two (2) from each program region,  
 26 that have grades 1-12 enrollment of between four thousand (4,000)  
 27 and six thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (6,999) students;

28 (iii) Six (6) school districts, two (2) from each program region,  
 29 that have grades 1-12 enrollment of between one thousand (1,000)  
 30 and three thousand nine hundred ninety-nine (3,999) students;

31 (iv) Six (6) school districts, two (2) from each program region,  
 32 that have grades 1-12 enrollment of less than one thousand (1,000)  
 33 students; and

34 (v) Three (3) charter schools, one (1) from each program region.

35 (b) The state department of education shall notify selected program  
 36 applicants by December 1, 2010.

37 (c) School districts and charter schools selected for the program will  
 38 be expected to participate for the full six (6) years of the program.  
 39 Provided however, that any school district or charter school selected  
 40 for the program may request to the state department of education to  
 41 opt out of the program. The department may grant such request at its  
 42 discretion.

43 (4) No participating school district shall be required to implement  
 44 the program on a districtwide basis. It shall be left to the discretion of  
 45 each participating district to determine which schools in the district shall  
 46 participate.

47 SECTION 4. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
 48 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and  
 49 designated as Section 33-1622, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

1 33-1622. PROGRAM ASSESSMENT -- STUDENT ASSESSMENT.

2 (1) (a) Every school district and charter school participating in  
3 the program shall measure student performance and achievement while  
4 such district and charter school is participating in the program.  
5 Such performance and achievement measures shall include, but shall  
6 not necessarily be limited to, standardized test scores, successful  
7 completion of courses, behavioral and/or disciplinary incidents and  
8 dropout rates. The performance and achievement measures provided  
9 for in this subsection shall be reported to the state department of  
10 education every June 30 during the life of the program.

11 (b) Relating to the program provided for in this act, the state  
12 department of education is hereby directed to identify and adopt  
13 end-of-course assessments for all core topic areas for grades 7-12  
14 curriculum and appropriate benchmarks for grades 1-6. Such assessments  
15 shall be developed during the life of the pilot program.

16 (2) (a) Students may request to take an end-of-course assessment.  
17 Such request shall be made upon a form provided by the state department  
18 of education. The student's request shall be made pursuant to  
19 collaboration between the student, the student's teachers, the school  
20 administration and the student's parents or guardians.

21 (b) The student shall score no less than eighty-five percent (85%) on  
22 the end-of-course assessment in order to participate in self-directed  
23 study that allows the student to work on completing a class or year of  
24 school at an accelerated pace.

25 (c) (i) When a student enrolled in grades 7-12 successfully passes  
26 an end-of-course assessment as provided for in subsection (2) (b)  
27 of this section, the student shall be counted as having completed  
28 all required coursework for that course and the school may be  
29 funded for such student based upon either the actual hours of  
30 attendance or the course which such student has successfully  
31 passed, whichever is more advantageous to the school, up to the  
32 maximum of one (1) full-time equivalent student.

33 (ii) When a student enrolled in grades 1-6 successfully completes  
34 a benchmark as provided for in subsection (1) (b) of this section,  
35 then the student shall be counted as having completed all required  
36 coursework for that grade and the school may be funded for such  
37 student, based upon either the actual hours of attendance or the  
38 grade which such student has successfully passed, whichever is  
39 more advantageous to the school, up to the maximum of one (1)  
40 full-time equivalent student.

41 SECTION 5. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
42 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and  
43 designated as Section 33-1623, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

44 33-1623. STUDENT ADVANCEMENT -- CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT -- EARLY  
45 GRADUATION -- MASTERY ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP -- RESIDUAL SAVINGS. (1) Any  
46 student who successfully completes a school district's grades 1-12  
47 curriculum at least one (1) year early shall be eligible for a mastery  
48 advancement scholarship if such student can show that the student has met all

1 of the graduation requirements of the school district in which the student  
2 attends school; and

3 (a) The student has completed the grades 1-12 curriculum in eleven (11)  
4 or fewer years and such student has attended schools in the Idaho public  
5 school system for the entire grades 1-12 curriculum; or

6 (b) Where the student has attended Idaho public schools for less than  
7 the entire grades 1-12 curriculum, such student shall be eligible for  
8 a mastery advancement scholarship if such student has attended Idaho  
9 public schools for a minimum of four (4) years. For students who have  
10 attended Idaho public schools for less than four (4) years and who have  
11 completed all graduation requirements, such students may be eligible  
12 to receive a mastery advancement scholarship at a reduced rate not to  
13 exceed one (1) semester of scholarship for each year of Idaho public  
14 school attendance.

15 (2) A student is not required to graduate early and can choose to  
16 participate in concurrent enrollment or advanced placement classes as is the  
17 current practice.

18 (3) (a) If a student requests a mastery advancement scholarship  
19 and is eligible pursuant to the provisions of subsection (1)(a) and  
20 (1)(b) of this section, the student shall be entitled to a mastery  
21 advancement scholarship which may be used for tuition and fees at  
22 any publicly funded institution of higher education in Idaho. The  
23 amount of such scholarship shall equal thirty-five percent (35%) of the  
24 statewide average daily attendance-driven funding per enrolled pupil  
25 for each year of grades 1-12 curriculum the student avoids due to early  
26 graduation. Such school district or charter school shall receive an  
27 amount equal to each such scholarship.

28 (b) The state department of education shall annually report, no  
29 later than January 15, to the senate and the house of representatives  
30 education committees, the number of scholarships awarded pursuant to  
31 this section during the previous school year, by school district and  
32 public charter school. Such report shall also include a fiscal note  
33 reflecting the amount of moneys expended for such scholarships.

34 (4) No student shall be eligible for more than three (3) years of a  
35 "mastery advancement" scholarship.

36 (5) School districts and public charter schools participating in  
37 the program established in section 33-1620, Idaho Code, are directed  
38 to collaborate with publicly funded institutions of higher education  
39 in this state to assist students who seek to graduate from high school  
40 early, in enrolling in postsecondary or advanced placement courses held in  
41 high school. Such school districts, public charter schools and publicly  
42 funded institutions of higher education shall report to the state board  
43 of education and the senate and the house of representatives education  
44 committees on any difficulties or obstacles they face in providing such  
45 assistance to students.

46 SECTION 6. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
47 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and  
48 designated as Section 33-1624, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

1        33-1624.    RULES. The state department of education is hereby directed  
2 to promulgate rules to implement the provisions of this act. Such rules may  
3 include a requirement that students successfully complete one (1) or more  
4 standardized assessments approved by the state department of education. The  
5 department shall work with school districts and public charter schools in  
6 developing the rules authorized by this section.