

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 392

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION; REPEALING CHAPTER 58, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, RELATING TO THE LOCAL INNOVATION SCHOOL ACT; AMENDING TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW CHAPTER 58, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTABLISH PROVISIONS REGARDING DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION, TO DEFINE TERMS, TO PROVIDE FOR ELIGIBILITY, TO PROVIDE FOR AUTHORIZATION, TO PROVIDE EXEMPTIONS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE AMENDMENT OR TERMINATION OF A LOCAL INNOVATION PLAN; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

SECTION 1. That Chapter 58, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby repealed.

SECTION 2. That Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW CHAPTER, to be known and designated as Chapter 58, Title 33, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

CHAPTER 58
DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION

33-5801. DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION. (1) The state board of education may designate eligible Idaho school districts as districts of innovation for the purposes of improving students' educational performance.

(2) To meet the diverse needs of students, districts of innovation shall be provided exemption from certain provisions of state law, administrative rules, and state board of education policies.

(3) The state board of education shall promulgate any administrative rules, subject to legislative approval, necessary to implement the provisions of this chapter.

(4) This chapter is not intended to limit or restrict innovative measures implemented by public charter schools.

33-5802. DEFINITIONS. As used in this chapter:

(1) "District of innovation" means a designated school district with a local innovation plan that has been approved by the state board of education.

(2) "Innovative education" means a new or creative alternative to existing instructional and administrative practices intended to improve student learning and student performance.

(3) "Local innovation plan" means a plan developed by a school district that provides a comprehensive program for innovative education. The plan shall identify administrative requirements that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the school district should be exempt, subject to section 33-5805(2), Idaho Code. The plan may include:

- 1 (a) Innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions re-
- 2 garding community participation, campus governance, and parental in-
- 3 volvement;
- 4 (b) Modifications to the school day or year;
- 5 (c) Provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program
- 6 funding;
- 7 (d) Accountability and assessment measures that exceed the require-
- 8 ments of state and federal law; and
- 9 (e) Any other innovations prescribed by the school district board of
- 10 trustees.

11 33-5803. ELIGIBILITY. A school district shall be eligible for desig-
 12 nation as a district of innovation if:

- 13 (1) The school district approves a local innovation plan that:
- 14 (a) Identifies changes needed in the district that may lead to better
- 15 prepared students for success in life and work;
- 16 (b) Provides documentation of support from the community, educators,
- 17 parents, and the school board for the proposed innovations;
- 18 (c) Identifies administrative requirements imposed by Idaho law, ad-
- 19 ministrative rules, and state board of education policies from which
- 20 the school district requests to be exempt;
- 21 (d) Provides detailed information regarding the rationale of requests
- 22 for exemptions; and
- 23 (e) Documents the fiscal and human resources the school board will pro-
- 24 vide throughout the term of the implementation of the innovations; and
- 25 (2) The school district's local innovative plan establishes goals and
- 26 performance targets. Such goals and performance targets may include:
- 27 (a) Reducing achievement gaps among public school students by expand-
- 28 ing learning experiences for students who are identified as academi-
- 29 cally low achieving;
- 30 (b) Increasing pupil learning through the implementation of high, rig-
- 31 orous standards for pupil performance;
- 32 (c) Increasing the participation of students in various curriculum and
- 33 instructional components within selected schools to enhance perfor-
- 34 mance at each grade level;
- 35 (d) Increasing the number of students who are college or career ready;
- 36 (e) Motivating students at different grade levels by offering more cur-
- 37 riculum choices and student learning opportunities to parents and stu-
- 38 dents within the district; and
- 39 (f) Providing additional pathways for advanced students.

40 33-5804. AUTHORIZATION. (1) After a school district board of trustees
 41 has approved a local innovation plan, it shall submit such plan to the state
 42 board of education for approval or denial of its designation as a district of
 43 innovation.

44 (2) If a school district is designated as a district of innovation, it
 45 shall begin operation in accordance with the local innovation plan.

46 (3) The term of a school district's designation as a district of inno-
 47 vation shall be continuously contingent on a biennial review of the school

1 district's local innovation plan by the state board of education pursuant to
2 section 33-5806(3), Idaho Code.

3 (4) A school district designated as a district of innovation shall en-
4 sure that a copy of the district's current local innovation plan is available
5 to the public by posting and maintaining the plan in a prominent location on
6 the district's website.

7 (5) Two (2) school districts may submit one (1) local innovation plan
8 if the requirements of section 33-5803, Idaho Code, are met and both school
9 districts' boards of trustees have approved the plan.

10 33-5805. EXEMPTIONS. (1) A district of innovation shall be exempt from
11 any subsequent amendment or redesignation of an identified state require-
12 ment, unless the subsequent amendment or redesignation specifically applies
13 to a district of innovation.

14 (2) A local innovation plan shall not provide an exemption from:

15 (a) Any federally mandated requirements;

16 (b) Requirements related to open enrollment;

17 (c) Requirements pursuant to chapter 10, title 33, Idaho Code; and

18 (d) State curriculum and graduation requirements.

19 33-5806. AMENDMENT OR TERMINATION OF LOCAL INNOVATION PLAN. (1) A lo-
20 cal innovation plan may be amended if the action is approved by a vote of the
21 school district board of trustees and the state board of education.

22 (2) A local innovation plan may be terminated if the action is approved
23 by a vote of the school district board of trustees. In the event a plan is
24 terminated by the school district, the state board of education must be noti-
25 fied within thirty (30) days of such termination.

26 (3) The state board of education shall establish criteria to determine
27 whether a school district is successfully meeting the goals outlined in its
28 local innovation plan and review each plan every two (2) years. If after re-
29 viewing a school district's plan, the state board of education determines
30 that the school district is not successfully meeting its goals, the state
31 board may terminate the school district's designation as a district of inno-
32 vation.

33 (4) Instead of terminating a school district's designation pursuant to
34 subsection (3) of this section, the state board of education may permit the
35 school district to amend its local innovation plan to address concerns spec-
36 ified by the state board of education.

37 (5) The state board of education shall compile information from its re-
38 views of local innovation plans to determine what innovations are success-
39 fully improving students' educational performance. Such data shall be made
40 publicly available for the benefit of all school districts.

41 SECTION 3. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby
42 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after
43 July 1, 2025.