

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 105

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE, DIRECTING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONVERT THE CURRENT IDAHO CORE STANDARDS INTO MORE IDAHO-SPECIFIC STANDARDS, DECLARING THAT THE IDAHO CORE MATH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE STANDARDS BE REVIEWED, THAT STANDARDS SHOULD NEVER BE USED AS A RIGID SCRIPT AND DIRECTING THAT MATH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE STANDARDS BE REVIEWED IN 2015.

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

WHEREAS, the State of Idaho has adopted academic standards and standards are valuable in providing a guideline for what should be taught in each grade level; the standards are named the Idaho Core Standards and are currently identical to Common Core State Standards; and

WHEREAS, students mature at different times and each child learns at a different pace; and

WHEREAS, young children think concretely before they are able to think abstractly; and

WHEREAS, standards have a great impact on curriculum, for curriculum aligns with standards; and

WHEREAS, Idahoans, parents of Idaho children, the State Board of Education and the State Department of Education must maintain control of the curriculum and what is taught in Idaho schools; and

WHEREAS, Common Core State Standards were developed outside the State of Idaho and contain several areas of concern including, but not limited to, abstractness of math principles in the early grades, concerns on how some math concepts are taught and a heavy reliance on modern technical writings with less exposure to historical literature, and include other concerns that may be raised by parents and educators.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of Representatives concurring therein, that the State Department of Education and the State Board of Education are directed to convert the current Idaho Core Standards into more Idaho-specific standards addressing the issues with abstractness, age appropriateness and literature content.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho core math and English language standards be reviewed on the normal rotation of reviewing standards already in place by the Standards of Professional Review Committee using Idaho educators and content experts and that those who review the standards seek the input and address the concerns that parents, teachers, administrators and legislators have with the present Idaho Core Standards.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that standards should never be used as a rigid script to determine what and when children should learn specific concepts; but rather, teachers be encouraged to individualize instruction based upon the needs and abilities of each child.

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that math and English language standards be re-
2 viewed in 2015.