

The Idaho Education Technology Association (IETA) has set the following priorities for the 2020 legislative session.

Tech Funding/Staffing Funding

Goal 1: Maintain current funding levels for technology purchases and staff funding.

Goal 2: Maintain two separate special distributions. One distribution for technology purchasing, and a separate distribution for IT staffing.

Rationale: Technology equipment and the maintenance of that equipment is vital in today's educational setting. School technology infrastructure provides access to information and training for Idaho students and staff. The access provided is vital to helping Idaho stay competitive in the modern job market. Technology helps provide equitable access for all Idaho students. The IT infrastructure that is provided and maintained by the current funding helps ensure schools have network infrastructure, wireless infrastructure, door access control, security cameras, security devices, phone systems, computers, and many other STEM-related technologies. All of these technologies need to be updated and replaced over time (have a refresh cycle). Technology funding is essential to keeping the equipment up-to-date and functional. If the equipment is allowed to breakdown or become obsolete students will lose access to an important learning opportunities, and teachers will lose access to tools critical to 21st century instruction.

Education Opportunity Resource Committee (EORC)

Goal: Maintain EORC as it is currently structured and funded.

Rationale: This system provides funding for internet access to schools throughout Idaho. The program also provides funding for wide area networks (WANs) that share the internet connection and network services between buildings within a district. WANs allow districts to consolidate resources and share services across the campuses (i.e. centralized security controls, camera management, internet, files, etc.). The program has been hugely successful in increasing school internet access (over 100% increase in bandwidth) and saved taxpayers over \$30 million when compared to the previous program. EORC should be maintained due to its success and continued need.

Broadband Infrastructure Improvement Grant (BIIG)

Goal: Maintain BIIG as it is currently structured and funded.

Rationale: This program provides access to grant money from the FCC and matching state dollars that help add internet access to school districts that lack the local infrastructure to purchase needed high-speed internet. BIIG can also be used to install connection between schools (WAN) in a district to improve efficiencies. The grant program is providing the infrastructure necessary to allow districts to obtain quality high speed internet in the hardest to reach portions of Idaho at little cost to the state. BIIG should be maintained due to its success and continued need.

Public Records Requests

Goal: Limit public records requests seeking information on staff and students to in-state requests only.

Rationale: Bad actors on the internet may be using public records requests to collect information on teachers and staff. Those individuals could use the information to “spear phish” (personalized attacks via email) staff in order to attack school district networks with the goal of stealing student and staff data, and also holding the districts information ransom. Limiting the request to in-state only would minimize this vector of attack.

Publicly Available Information

Goal: Remove information about staff that could be used to “spear phish” (personalized attacks via email) or attack individuals using information posted on the district websites.

Rationale: Bad actors on the internet may be using publicly available information on district webpages to collect information on teachers and staff. Those individuals could use the information to “spear phish” staff in order to attack districts networks with the goal of stealing student and staff data, and holding the districts information ransom. Limiting the request to in-state only would eliminate this vector of attack.