Idaho Statutes

Idaho Statutes are updated to the website July 1 following the legislative session.

TITLE 67
STATE GOVERNMENT AND STATE AFFAIRS
CHAPTER 8
EXECUTIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS — GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

67-823. COORDINATION OF POLICY AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH EDUCATION IN IDAHO. (1) There is hereby created in the office of the governor the "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Action Center" and the STEM action center advisory board. The administrator of the STEM action center shall be the official in the state designated to coordinate and oversee implementation of STEM programs; to promote STEM through best practices in education to ensure connection with industry and Idaho's long-term economic prosperity; to produce an Idaho STEM-competitive workforce to offer better access to competitive employment opportunities; and to drive student experience, engagement and industry alignment by identifying and implementing public and higher education STEM best practices to transform workforce development.

(2) The STEM action center advisory board shall consist of the following nine (9) members:

(a) The director of the department of commerce, or his designee;

(b) The director of the department of labor, or his designee;

(c) One (1) member of the state board of education;

(d) The superintendent of public instruction, or her designee; and

(e) Five (5) members appointed by the governor, who shall serve at the pleasure of the governor for terms of three (3) years, and who shall be residents of the state and represent manufacturing or STEM-related industries. The board's chairman will be elected annually by the members of the board.

(3) The terms of the first board shall be staggered with three (3) appointments expiring July 1, 2018; three (3) appointments expiring July 1, 2019; and three (3) appointments expiring July 1, 2020. Thereafter, the term of office for each member shall be three (3) years.

(4) A vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment and for the balance of the unexpired term.

(5) The duties of the STEM action center shall include:

(a) Coordinate all state departments and divisions on STEM-related activities;

(b) Perform industry needs and education process foci on industry career talent, gap analysis and needs assessment to lead future STEM teacher professional development activities and goals;

(c) Align public education STEM activities with higher education STEM activities;

(d) Identify and coordinate best practices among public education and higher education;

(e) Strategically engage industry, business and public or government entities to cooperate with the STEM action center and focus outcomes

and goals on workforce needs and opportunities;

(f) Support high-quality professional development focused on career readiness and talent development and provide other assistance for educators and students;

(g) Work cooperatively with the Idaho department of education and the Idaho state board of education to define and implement pilot programs and select schools to:

(i) Further STEM education;

(ii) Ensure that best practices are implemented; and

(iii) Integrate research and document results of that research; and

(h) Engage private entities to provide additional funding and/or in-kind employee time for STEM activities in schools supporting industry career readiness in addition to what is currently provided by private entities.

(6) The duties and oversight of the STEM action center shall not interfere or conflict with the duties and oversight of the state board of education.

(7) As funding allows, the administrator of the STEM action center shall:

(a) Support high-quality professional development for educators regarding STEM education;

(b) Ensure that the STEM action center acts as a research and development center for tools and best practice in STEM education coordination and development;

(c) Review and acquire STEM education-related instructional materials and products for:

(i) Educator high-quality professional development;

(ii) Assessment, data collection, analysis and reporting; and

(iii) Public school instruction; and

(d) Facilitate participation in interscholastic STEM-related competitions, fairs, expositions, camps and STEM education student programs;

(e) Engage private industry in the development and maintenance of the STEM action center and STEM action center projects;

(f) Use resources to bring the latest STEM content, 21st century skills and hands-on STEM education resources into public education classroom schools;

(g) Annually identify at least five (5) best practice innovations used in Idaho schools that have resulted in growth in interest and performance in STEM by students and teachers involved in pilot programs, math academies and STEM projects;

(h) Identify best practices being used outside the state and, as appropriate, develop and implement selected practices through pilot programs;

(i) As appropriate, join and participate in a national STEM network and collaborate with neighboring states in STEM program development;

(j) Identify performance changes linked to use of the best practices;

(k) Support best methods of high-quality professional development for STEM education in kindergarten through grade 12, including methods of high-quality professional development pilot programs that reduce cost and increase effectiveness, implement practices that support industry career readiness and talent development, and help educators learn how

to most effectively implement STEM best practices, 21st century skills and STEM resources in classrooms;

(l) Support targeted high-quality professional development for improved instruction in K-12 STEM education, including:

(i) Improved instructional materials and resources that are dynamic and engaging for students;

(ii) Targeted instruction for students who traditionally avoid enrolling in STEM courses;

(iii) Introduction of engaging engineering and other STEM programs;

(iv) Use of applied instruction; and

(v) Introduction of other research-based methods that support student achievement in STEM areas; and

(m) Provide an Idaho best practices STEM resource database, including best practices from public education, higher education, informal STEM partners and other STEM-related entities.

(8) The administrator shall track and compare the growth of students participating in a STEM action center program to all other similarly situated students in the state, in the following STEM-related activities, at the beginning and end of each year:

(a) Public education high school graduation rates;

(b) The number of students taking STEM courses at an institution of public higher education;

(c) The number of students who graduate from an Idaho public school and begin a postsecondary education program; and

(d) The number of students, as compared to all similarly situated students, who are performing at grade level in STEM classes.

(9) The STEM action center may:

(a) Enter into contracts for the purposes of this section; and

(b) Apply for, receive and disburse funds, contributions or grants from any source for the purposes set forth in this section.

(10) The administrator shall report the progress of the STEM action center, including the information described in subsection (5) of this section, to the following groups once each year:

(a) The house and senate education committees;

(b) The governor's office;

(c) The joint finance-appropriations committee; and

(d) The state board of education.

(11) The report described in subsection (10) of this section shall include information that demonstrates the effectiveness of the program, including:

(a) The number of educators receiving high-quality STEM professional development;

(b) The number of students receiving services from the STEM action center and the number of students participating in STEM camps, academies, pilot programs and classroom STEM activities;

(c) A report on the STEM action center's fulfillment of its duties; and

(d) Student performance of students participating in a STEM action center program.

History:

[67-823, added 2015, ch. 304, sec. 1, p. 1202; am. 2018, ch. 23, sec. 1, p. 38; am. 2019, ch. 161, sec. 12, p. 544.]

How current is this law?

Idaho Statutes

Idaho Statutes are updated to the website July 1 following the legislative session.

TITLE 33
EDUCATION
CHAPTER 16
COURSES OF INSTRUCTION

33-1633. COMPUTER SCIENCE INITIATIVE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "Blended professional development" means to deliver content and training to teachers and administrators in a combination of online and face-to-face.

(b) "Computer science" means the study of principles, applications and technologies of computing and computers.

(2) The STEM action center, the state board of education and the state department of education shall collaborate to develop and implement a computer science initiative for public schools by:

(a) Adopting computer science content standards in 2016 aligned with nationally recognized computer science education standards with input from Idaho educators and industries for implementation in the 2017-2018 school year;

(b) Providing for professional development in teaching computer science by:

(i) Developing resources for teachers and administrators relating to teaching computational thinking;

(ii) Providing statewide, regional, online and blended professional development opportunities for school district staff;

(iii) Partnering with entities such as the Idaho digital learning academy, public higher education institutions and industry to develop, deliver and provide professional development in computer science for teachers; and

(iv) Distributing grants to school districts and charter schools that may be used to provide incentives for teachers to pursue training in computer science or earn a computer science endorsement;

(c) Maintaining, using and enhancing access to an online portal or repository of instructional resources that:

(i) Is available for public school districts and public charter schools to use as a resource;

(ii) Includes high-quality computer science instructional resources that are designed to teach K-12 students computational thinking skills and are in alignment with the state computer science content standards;

(iii) Leverages existing online resources and portals developed by state and governmental entities; and

(iv) Allows for collaborative contribution and sharing of resources by teachers, administrators, parents and students;

(d) Ensuring that the state department of education and the Idaho digital learning academy evaluate providers of comprehensive computer

science instructional solutions and provide research, support and guidance on implementing solutions for computer science courses or programs aligned with the state computer science content standards;

(e) Creating opportunities for schools to partner with local companies to provide for student and teacher mentoring and internships in the computer science field;

(f) Communicating and supporting computer science initiatives, programs, events, training and other promotions throughout the state for the benefit of school districts, students, parents and local communities; and

(g) Creating equitable access to computer science resources and programs aligned with the state computer science content standards for teachers, administrators and students throughout the state.

(3) The STEM action center, the state board of education and the state department of education shall, when economical and beneficial, leverage existing state resources and systems to effectively and efficiently carry out the directives of this computer science initiative for public schools.

(4) The STEM action center board may select one (1) or more providers through a request for proposals process to provide a comprehensive computer science solution for public school districts and public charter schools to implement.

(5) The STEM action center, the division of career technical education and industry shall collaborate to create technical secondary and postsecondary courses of study in areas related to computer science that meet workforce needs.

(6) The STEM action center shall collaborate with the state board of education, division of career technical education, the state department of education, public higher education institutions and industry to develop a communication plan related to the computer science initiative.

(7) The STEM action center and the state board of education shall provide an annual report to the legislature on the status of this initiative.

History:

[33-1633, added 2016, ch. 156, sec. 2, p. 427.]

How current is this law?

Idaho Statutes

Idaho Statutes are updated to the website July 1 following the legislative session.

TITLE 33
EDUCATION
CHAPTER 47
STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATION

33-4701. STEM SCHOOL DESIGNATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (1) As used in this section:

(a) "STEM" means comprehensive science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

(b) "STEM instruction" means multidisciplinary science, technology, engineering and mathematics instruction.

(c) "STEM school designation" and "STEM program designation" mean the designations earned by meeting the criteria as established in this section.

(d) "STEM program" means a course of study, institute or academy within a school that is multigrade and multidiscipline consisting of STEM instruction.

(2) The state board of education shall award STEM school and STEM program designations annually to those public schools and public school programs that meet the standards established by the state board of education in collaboration with the STEM action center.

(3) To be eligible to apply for a STEM designation, the school must meet the standards and application requirements established by the state board of education and the STEM action center, including the following:

(a) Be a current public school in Idaho that serves students in kindergarten through grade 12, or a subset of grades between kindergarten and grade 12;

(b) Apply to the STEM action center for a STEM school designation review to include evaluation of the following:

(i) STEM instruction and curriculum focused on problem-solving, student involvement in team-driven project-based learning, and engineering design process;

(ii) College and career exposure, exploration and advising;

(iii) Relevant professional learning opportunities for staff;

(iv) Community and family involvement;

(v) Integration of technology and physical resources to support STEM instruction;

(vi) Collaboration with institutions of higher education and industry;

(vii) Capacity to capture and share knowledge for best practices and innovative professional development with the STEM action center; and

(viii) Support of nontraditional and historically underserved student populations in STEM program areas.

(c) Adopt a plan of STEM implementation that includes, but is not limited to, how the school and district integrate proven best practices into non-STEM courses and practices and how lessons learned

are shared with other schools within the district and throughout the state.

(4) The STEM action center board shall make recommendations annually to the state board of education for the award of a STEM school designation.

(5) STEM designations shall be valid for a term of five (5) school years. At the end of each designation term, a school may apply to renew its STEM designation. Schools may apply to expand a STEM program designation to a STEM school designation, in alignment with established deadlines, at any time during the term of the STEM program designation.

(6) The STEM action center and the state board of education shall provide a report to the legislature annually on the implementation of this chapter.

(7) The state board of education may promulgate rules for the administration and implementation of this chapter.

History:

[33-4701, added 2017, ch. 69, sec. 2, p. 168.]

How current is this law?