



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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TRANSMITTAL # 6

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 31, 2006
TO: Workforce Development Council
FROM: Dwight A. Johnson, Executive Director
Idaho State Board Of Education
RE: Proposed High School Graduation Requirements
ACTION REQUESTED: Endorse new proposed high school graduation requirements

BACKGROUND:

The State Board of Education's research indicates that increased rigor in high school helps students to be better prepared for the workforce and for post secondary education including professional technical education. The State Board is proposing new rules to reflect appropriate expectations for all high school students to help them succeed in whatever path they choose after high school.

The State Board drafted these new proposed rules in response to feedback it received over the past 2 years, including feedback from 13 Focus Forums held throughout the state during the month of July that were attended by more than 450 parents, educators, business representatives, community leaders and legislators.

The State Board is now in the process of gathering additional public input and feedback on the specifics of the proposed rule as well as on which of the ideas and suggestions should be included in our implementation plan to assure the rule's success.

During September the Board will hold meetings with multiple stakeholders including school administrators, music and art educators, LDS seminary leaders, business leaders, parent groups and others. During October public hearings across the state will be held. Based on that input, the Board will finalize the proposed rule and implementation plan in November and take the finalized rule to the legislature in January for approval.

Proposed Graduation Requirements

Beginning with Class of 2013

Content Area	Current State Credit Requirement	State Board Proposal
Language Arts <i>(English and Speech)</i>	9 credits	9 credits
Mathematics	4 credits No course titles	6 credits Including Algebra 1 and Geometry or classes that meet Algebra I and Geometry standards. 2 credits must be taken in senior year Incentives for school districts to adopt 4 years of math and Algebra 2 requirements
Science	4 credits	6 credits (4 lab)
Social Studies <i>(US History, Economics and American Government)</i>	5 credits	5 credits
Humanities <i>(Interdisciplinary Humanities, Fine Arts or Foreign Language)</i>	2 credits	2 credits
Health	1 credits	1 credits
Postsecondary Readiness Plan	4 Year Learning Plan at end of 8 th grade	No change
Advanced Opportunities	None	Districts must offer at least one Advanced Opportunity <i>(Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate)</i> <i>Districts choose Advanced Opportunity</i>
Senior Project	None	Required including oral presentation, project and written report <i>Districts design</i>
College Entrance Exam	None	ACT, SAT or Compass by the end of 11 th grade <i>Districts choose options</i>
TOTAL CREDITS	42	46

Proposed Increase in High School Graduation Requirements

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

Expand Options for Math Courses/Standards/Credits

- Develop and identify other courses that meet algebra 1 and geometry standards and other courses to meet science standards (PTE, Art, Music, etc.)
- Develop course list approved by SDE and PTE that meet math/science standards
- Establish State Board working group to develop “standards” rather than “seat time” approach to math and science education:
 - End of Course Assessments
 - Standards-based portfolio and examinations
 - ISAT science assessments at every grade level

Increase Opportunities to Recruit Additional Math & Science Teachers

- Establish college loans or scholarships for those becoming math/science teachers
- Create ability for college faculty to become certified teachers for 6-12 grades
- Incentivize professionals to become math and science teachers
 - Offer increased placement on the teacher pay scale based on percentage of number of years of work in the subject area
 - Enhance alternative certification routes to teach 1-2 periods or full time
 - Offer incentives for business to allow employees release time for teaching
- Offer tuition reimbursement for current teachers to increase math/science certifications
- Change funding formula to generate additional teachers in the state (in order to protect electives while providing additional resources for math)
- Provide differentiated pay for teachers in difficult to recruit subject areas

Expand Professional Development & Teacher Training for Existing Teachers

- Expand BSU pilot that enhances primary school teachers math teaching ability
- Expand UI online teacher math certification program
- Expand district-initiated programs

Enhance Instruction, Assessment and Remediation for Students

- Primary Grades – Create “Idaho Math Initiative” based on Idaho Reading Initiative (including IMI assessment & \$\$ for remediation)
- Intermediate Grades – Create Instructional Strategies and Materials
- Middle School – Create Instructional Strategies, Materials and Course Options
- High School – Create Instructional Strategies, Materials, Course Options and End of Course Assessments

Create Additional Incentives for requiring Algebra II and Fourth Year of Math

- Incentives for Districts that require Algebra II???
- Incentives for Districts that require 4th year of math???

Senior Project

- Provide state funding to districts based on 11th grade student count
- Have SDE provide best practices, guidelines and scoring rubrics

College Entrance Exam

- Provide state funding for ACT, SAT and COMPASS based on 11th grade count

Expand Advanced Learning Opportunities

- Finalize dual enrollment standards and processes for State Board review and adoption
- Increase funding for expanded IDLA course offerings
- Provide resources to districts for students who have exhausted district course offerings in math

Focus on Improving Middle School

- State Board Committee to examine middle school issues
 - Course requirements
 - Accountability
 - Learning Plan/Career Development
 - Advisory
 - Middle School Endorsement
 - Post-Secondary courses in middle school methods, classroom management, content area methods, etc.
 - Financial Literacy

Improve Post-Secondary Teacher Training

- Review and improve math and science teacher education programs
- Recruit quality college faculty to teach math and science instruction methods
- Increase university capacity to support professional development programs for teachers

Continue Local Control

Possible options for local choice in draft proposal:

- Increased course options to meet math requirements
- 4th year of math – opportunity for incentive
- Algebra 2 – opportunity for incentive
- Flexibility on senior project
- Flexibility on College Entrance Exams
- Use of additional teachers generated through funding formula
- Increased options for hiring math and science teachers
- Increased professional development and teacher training options
- Resources for a variety of Advanced Learning Opportunities offered

Increase Parent Involvement

- Parent Advisory Group Involvement (PTA, PTO, PICAC, etc.)
- GEAR UP Activities in pilot schools
- Partnerships with business and community to provide career awareness, internship, etc.