

## 2020 Legislative Initiatives from WDC Partners

### Our Kids, Idaho's Future (will be updated to mirror the Governor's recommendations)

- Statewide accountability focusing on K-3 literacy.
- Greater all-day kindergarten opportunities to support K-3 literacy and future student achievement.
- Building out and updating the career ladder salary allocation program to elevate the profession and retain effective educators.
- Addressing social and emotional issues to support student learning.
- Strategic alignment and increased flexibility in the K-12 funding formula.

### Idaho State Board of Education Initiatives

**Opportunity Scholarship:** The FY20 budget for Scholarships & Grants included \$7 million in additional one-time funding to increase the number of Opportunity Scholarship awards. As a result, nearly 2,200 additional Idahoans – including recent high school graduates and adult learners returning to school, received scholarships in fall 2019. Making the \$7 million one-time funds permanent by adding it to the FY21 scholarship base budget will provide more Idahoans the opportunity to earn professional certificates or college degrees and help meet the skilled workforce demands of our employers.

### Commerce:

Small Employer Incentive Act - Business Advantage (FY20 – Sunset Extension) – allows tax credits for businesses that invest a minimum of \$500,000 in facilities and creates at least 10 new jobs averaging \$40,000 annually plus benefits. Offers both enhanced personal and real investment tax credits, high wage job credits, sales tax rebate on construction materials, and potential property tax exemption from the county. This incentive was created in 2005, and went through years of legislative amending and did not start being utilized until 2009. This incentive is due to sunset in 2020. Idaho Commerce is recommending that this incentive be extended until 2030.

### Idaho Department of Labor

**Idaho Job Corps Demonstration Project:** (FY21 --\$6,700,000 Spending Authority) The Idaho Department of Labor will partner with the community colleges to serve 300 students annually across the state. Income-eligible youth, ages 16-24 will be connected to training and workplace opportunities that will provide the students skills training to prepare them for sustainable careers in Idaho. Students will receive training and access to wide variety of social services.

### CTE:

**Maintenance Funding for Secondary CTE Programs:** (FY21 – \$400,000) – “Added-Cost” funds for equipment, supplies and teacher professional development are available to support regular enrollment growth in high school CTE programs.

### STEM AC

**Computer Science Initiative:** (\$500,000 ongoing and \$500,000 onetime) for the Computer Science education initiative (Idaho Code 33-1633 including educator professional development, camps, student competitions, and grants. As a national leader in Computer Science education, and in partnership with other state agencies, Idaho STEM Action Center will work collectively to build a workforce prepared to fill the growing number of Computer Science jobs available in Idaho.

## **SDE Fiscal Year 2021 Legislative Priorities**

Superintendent Ybarra's Fiscal Year 2021 budget request for public schools totals \$1.99 billion, including \$100 million in new General Fund, which is a 5.3 percent increase over the current year's appropriation.

**Teacher Compensation:** (\$40 million) to extend the career ladder with an emphasis on improving pay for Idaho's veteran teachers. This request supports the direction of the Governor's Task Force to enhance the career ladder. While the first five years of the career ladder focused on boosting pay for new and early career educators, more must be done to reward experienced teachers, recognizing their value and encouraging them to stay in Idaho schools despite higher pay in other states.

**Literacy:** (\$26 million ongoing or current amount) to continue funding literacy intervention programs to support struggling readers. The funding will provide district's with financial stability for literacy intervention programs in grades K-3.

**Social/Emotional Training:** (\$1 million) to develop and implement social/emotional training for all educators and district staff to identify and better respond to students' needs, including how to de-escalate unsafe situations and how to coordinate resources from state, local, and non-profit groups to provide "wraparound services." Social-emotional learning is vital to helping children develop the self-awareness, problem-solving and impulse control needed to overcome challenges and thrive in school, work and community life.

**Mastery-based Education:** (\$500,000) to continue expanding mastery-based education, boosting the funding from \$1.4 million to \$1.9 million. A student-centered, competency-based support program for districts to transition to a mastery-based education model was launched by the State Department of Education three years ago. Now Idaho is seen as a national leader in mastery education. As many as 48 new schools have applied to join the Idaho Mastery Education Network, more than doubling the total. The new applicants include 14 school districts and 5 charter schools as well as existing participants who are expanding to additional grade levels and schools.

**Idaho Bureau of Occupational Licensing:** We support IBOL's efforts to streamline occupational licensing and reduce barriers to entry for licensed professions. Specifically:

- Morticians: streamline and modernize the education and training requirements for a mortician license and a funeral director license, reducing barriers to entry.
- Contractors: allow for inactive licensure status which will save the licensee the unnecessary cost of maintaining insurance during winter months when they are not working.