

High Expectations

July 28, 2014

Committee Charge

To further refine the following recommendations:

- #1 Shift to a **Mastery Based System** where students advance based upon content mastery, rather than seat time requirements.
- #4 Ensure all students have access to **Advanced Opportunities** by expanding offerings.
- #13 Shift from Average Daily Attendance (ADA) **Funding Model to Enrollment/Membership** to enhance fiscal stability and remove current barriers to personalized and/or mastery learning.

Mastery-based Models

- Presentations from South Carolina & Oregon on their mastery-based experience
- Discussion of framework from Reinventing Schools Coalition – <http://www.reinventingschools.org/>

Recommendations

- We recommend that Idaho implement a pilot program that provides funding to encourage districts and schools to create their own mastery-based models, tailored to local conditions and opportunities.
- We recommend that Idaho provide funding for professional development programs to assist districts/schools in implementing mastery based models.
- We recommend that Idaho educate districts regarding Idaho law/rule. Nothing in Idaho law prevents districts from advancing students based on mastery or competency- based models.
- We recommend that the State Department of Education prioritize federal or other grants to support districts who are implementing mastery programs with preference given to rural districts.

Advanced Opportunities

- Review of current programs
- Discussions with State Department of Education
- Presentation on Near Peer Mentoring and Counselor Training

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the relevant sections of Idaho Code pertaining to advanced opportunities be consolidated into a single chapter to provide better clarity to districts, institutions and school boards.
2. We recommend that the following changes be made to current advanced opportunities programs:
 - a) Eliminate the 10% participation cap in the 8 in 6 program.
 - b) Remove restriction to online courses in the 8 in 6 program to allow for courses taken in traditional schools.
 - c) Remove the requirement that students pay 25% of fees in the Fast Forward (\$200/\$400) program in order to eliminate barriers to those who need it most and to simplify reimbursement to districts.

Recommendations

3. We recommend follow-on work in 2-3 years to simplify and consolidate the Advanced Opportunities programs after review of Fast Forward data.
4. We support working with legislators to create scholarships to provide assistance to students who earn college credit in high school.
 - a) For 9 college credits earned in high school, the student would receive \$1,000 per year for 2 years;
 - b) For 18 college credits earned in high school, the student would receive \$2,000 per year for two years.
 - c) For 30 college credits earned in high school, the student would receive \$3,000 per year for two years.

Recommendations

5. We recommend that Idaho Code Section 33-118, 100.04b be revised to require annual review of a student's 8th Grade Plan in grades 9-12.
6. The committee believes that career counseling is key to reaching Idaho's 60% goal. We recommend that a position be created at the State Department of Education to prioritize career counseling in all districts.
7. We recommend the legislature appropriate funds specifically for districts to implement career counseling using a model that best fits their needs.

Funding Model

- Research on funding models in Montana, Alaska, Wyoming, Colorado and Utah.
- Discussion with State Department of Education staff regarding challenges with current funding model.

Recommendations

1. We recommend that the state continue with Average Daily Attendance funding; however, we recognize that the current formula needs to be updated in a number of areas.
2. We recommend that the current attendance minimum requirements of 2.5 hours for a half day, and 4.0 hours for a full day of attendance be removed and a per credit model developed in its place.
3. We recommend that the current restriction on funding more than one FTE be removed and state funding provided in certain situations.
4. We recommend that a subcommittee be formed comprised of large and small districts, charter and traditional schools, online schools, SDE staff, and the IDLA to explore these areas further and report back.

Summary of Next Steps

- Work with Board and Department staff to identify appropriate funding amounts to recommend.
- Draft legislative language for advanced opportunities consolidation.
- Finalize survey for counselors (to be sent late August)