

Subject: Collaborative/Coordination Function – Idaho’s MOST Advisory Group

Background: In 1998, the Idaho State Board of Education created the Idaho’s MOST initiative to aggressively pursue improving teacher quality in the state’s K-12 classrooms. Teacher quality was singled out because research has repeatedly demonstrated that, other than family factors, teaching quality is the most effective way to improve student progress/achievement. The MOST Advisory Group, chaired by a Board member and composed of a diverse group of business leaders and educators (including the Superintendent of Public Instruction), has directed the Idaho's MOST activities since the onset of the initiative. There have been many accomplishments to date and soon there will be many additional teacher policy recommendations from the MOST Advisory Group to the Board. Since MOST’s inception, the Board has also continued to receive teacher policy recommendations from a variety of other policy groups, including the Professional Standards Commission (PSC), the Idaho Department of Education, education stakeholder professional associations, etc.

Discussion: Idaho's MOST is entering a critical policy formulation phase, as are several other educational groups/agencies (state agencies, higher education institutions, professional organizations, etc.). Therefore, there is the potential for statewide teacher policy recommendations to the Idaho State Board of Education from various groups/agencies, including Idaho's MOST, to become fragmented or to be even at cross-purposes. While good teacher policy ideas can come from any number of sources, it becomes critically important with Idaho's limited resources that those groups/agencies developing teacher policy work collaboratively to coordinate efforts and avoid duplication. Groups/agencies need to be given an opportunity to review and comment on all statewide teacher policy recommendations prior to Board review and action. It has been recommended that Idaho's MOST Advisory Group, as a Board-appointed body, be utilized to act as a depository for teacher policy recommendations prior to Board review and action. This will not preclude non-MOST policy recommendations from being forwarded to the Board but will only ensure that Idaho's MOST be aware of other relevant initiatives and recommendations in the area of teacher policy. It is not intended that the MOST Advisory Group would have authority to approve or reject proposals from other groups/agencies but simply the responsibility to act as a depository for reviewing and commenting on teacher policy recommendations in the interest of coordination and avoidance of duplication.

Impact: Forwarding all issues relative to teacher quality (i.e., K-12 teacher preparation standards, teacher preparation program approval, teacher professional development, teacher evaluation and compensation, teacher recruitment and retention, and teacher certification and re-certification) through the Idaho’s MOST Advisory Group before routing to the Board would serve to coordinate these activities, alleviate fragmentation of policies in this area, and provide an opportunity for the various stakeholder and policy groups/agencies to collaborate and cooperate in the development of recommendations to the Board on teacher related policies. The Idaho State Board of Education will remain the final approval authority on these matters.

Fiscal Impact: None.

Committee Action: It was moved by _____ and seconded by _____ to recommend to the Board that all recommendations being forwarded to the Board relative to teacher policy as identified in Item ___ be routed through the MOST Advisory Group, for as long as it is active, for review, comment and appropriate coordination and collaboration only prior to being presented to the Board for action.

Board Action: It was moved by _____ and carried that all recommendations being forwarded to the Board relative to teacher policy as identified in Item ___ be routed through the MOST Advisory Group, for as long as it is active, for review, comment, and appropriate coordination and collaboration only prior to being presented to the Board for action.

