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**For Immediate Release**

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**BOARD APPROVES TEMPORARY RULES FOR  
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FOR ADULT LEARNERS**

The Idaho State Board of Education Thursday adopted temporary rules enabling the Board’s Opportunity Scholarship to be offered to adult learners beginning July 1, 2018.

The Board action amends student eligibility and application requirements to allow a portion of the Opportunity Scholarship fund to be used to help adults who earned 24 credits or more before “stopping out” of college or a career technical program, to resume their education.

The temporary rules for these students include:

- Lowering applicants’ minimum GPA from 3.0 to 2.7
- Requires students to have “stopped out” for two years or more
- Allows students to attend part-time
- Pro-rates the award amount based on credits enrolled in
- Requires students to show progress in order to maintain eligibility
- Allows eligible students to apply up to three weeks prior to the start of the term

Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter and Idaho lawmakers approved legislation last month allowing up to 20 percent of the Opportunity Scholarship fund to be used for adult

learners. They also increased the annual appropriation by \$3.5 million for a total of \$13.5 million.

Although the temporary rule takes effect immediately, the Board will consider formal rules in August after Board staff work with stakeholders through the negotiated rule making process. If approved by Board, the proposed rule will then be submitted to the legislature for consideration early next year.

Last year, 3,716 Idaho students received an Opportunity Scholarship. The maximum award for a scholarship is \$3,500 annually for up to four years.

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