



650 W. State Street • Room 307 • Boise, ID • 83702
P.O. Box 83720 • Boise, ID • 83720-0037

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Contact: Mike Keckler
208-332-1591 (office)
208-866-5734 (cell)
Mike.Keckler@osbe.idaho.gov

BOARD APPROVES PROPOSED RULE ON ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP

The Idaho State Board of Education today approved a proposed and temporary rule intended to increase the number of Idahoans eligible to apply for the Opportunity Scholarship.

The proposed and temporary rule includes:

- Lowering the minimum GPA for all students from 3.0 to 2.7 and enabling eligible Adult Learners with a 2.5 GPA to apply for the scholarship and renew the scholarship as long as they maintain a minimum 2.7 GPA after returning to school.
- Requiring Adult Learners to have “stopped out” for 24 months or more but makes an exception for students who enrolled in a maximum of two courses during that time.
- Enabling Adult Learner Scholarship recipients to attend part-time.
- Directing institutions to work with Adult Learner recipients to determine if they can receive college credits for prior learning gained in the military or in industry.
- Requiring scholarship recipients to show progress on their education plans to maintain eligibility.

The Board approved several other rule dockets but also rejected a proposed rule on enrollment reporting for K-12, instructing staff to collect more public comment on the rule and bring it back to the Board for consideration as a temporary rule later this fall. All proposed rules will be presented to the Idaho Legislature for consideration during the 2020 legislative session.

Other Board actions include:

- Approved first readings of new Board policies involving text book affordability for college students and making it possible for students to earn college credit when they need additional support in math and English courses.
- Approved a request by Idaho State University to begin planning renovations of four campus residence halls. The work is not to exceed \$5 million dollars and is subject to future Board approval of a plan for financing the project.
- Approved a request by the University of Idaho to sell the 75 acre Sandpoint Research & Extension Center in Sandpoint. The facility has been closed for several years and the property will be sold to a local developer for \$4 million. The U of I will use proceeds for other strategic priorities.
- Approved a maintenance and improvement plan for the president's residence at Idaho State University. The historic Serval house was purchased by the university 65 years ago. Work will be spread out over four years and will cost \$300,000 to be paid using university reserve funds. The last major work on the house occurred 25 year ago.
- Agreed to consider more bachelor-level programs at Idaho community colleges based on local and regional needs.

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