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For Immediate Release

October 17, 2019

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BOARD APPROVES HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY CHANGES

The Idaho State Board of Education today approved several changes to Board policy governing public higher education in Idaho.

The policy changes include:

- Requires institutions to prioritize and evaluate programs and to submit a report to the Board at least every five years, with annual updates on action items.
- Requires institutions to post website information clearly explaining processes and policies for awarding credit for prior learning and how those credits may be applied to course and degree requirements.
- Makes it possible for students to earn college credit while taking “co-requisite” math and English courses that are guaranteed to meet degree requirements and designed to improve skills in those areas for college-level work.
- Directs institutions to offer free, open-licensed textbooks (where available) and low-cost educational materials for common-numbered courses on-campus and through dual credit.

The Board also approved the first reading of a proposed policy change delegating broader responsibility for approving alcohol permits at student athletic events to the college and university presidents. “This Board needs to focus on strategic direction for education policy,” Board Member Andrew Scoggin said. “We have very capable and competent chief executive officers at these institutions and there are very clear requirements for safety and security that they will have to meet in order to authorize these permits.” The Board directed staff to continue to refine the policy change before it is considered for final approval at its December meeting.

Other Board actions include:

- Approved temporary rule outlining requirements for school districts and charter schools to report full-time student enrollment.
- Approved an Idaho State University request to issue \$21 million in bonds for five projects:
 - Purchase property adjacent to the ISU Meridian Health Science Center
 - Construct a parking lot at the Meridian Health Science Center
 - Renovate Davis Field
 - Renovate four campus residence halls
 - Refinance debt associated with the Stephens Performing Arts Center

The Board met on the campus of Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston.

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