

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 302

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH EDUCATION; AMENDING
2 CHAPTER 8, TITLE 67, IDAHO CODE, BY THE ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 67-823,
3 IDAHO CODE, TO CREATE IN THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR THE SCIENCE, TECH-
4 NOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH ACTION CENTER AND THE STEM ACTION CENTER
5 BOARD, TO PROVIDE POWERS AND DUTIES AND TO PROVIDE FOR REPORTS.
6

7 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

8 SECTION 1. That Chapter 8, Title 67, Idaho Code, be, and the same is
9 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-
10 ignated as Section 67-823, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

11 67-823. COORDINATION OF POLICY AND PROGRAMS RELATED TO SCIENCE, TECH-
12 NOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATH EDUCATION IN IDAHO. (1) There is hereby created
13 in the office of the governor the "Science, Technology, Engineering and Math
14 (STEM) Action Center" and the STEM action center board. The administrator of
15 the STEM action center shall be the official in the state designated to coor-
16 dinate and oversee implementation of STEM programs; to promote STEM through
17 best practices in education to ensure connection with industry and Idaho's
18 long-term economic prosperity; to produce an Idaho STEM-competitive work-
19 force to offer better access to competitive employment opportunities; and to
20 drive student experience, engagement and industry alignment by identifying
21 and implementing public and higher education STEM best practices to trans-
22 form workforce development.

23 (2) The STEM action center board shall consist of the following nine (9)
24 members:

- 25 (a) The director of the department of commerce, or his designee;
- 26 (b) The director of the department of labor, or his designee;
- 27 (c) One (1) member of the state board of education;
- 28 (d) The superintendent of public instruction, or her designee; and
- 29 (e) Five (5) members appointed by the governor, who shall serve at the
30 pleasure of the governor for terms of four (4) years, and who shall be
31 residents of the state and represent manufacturing or STEM-related in-
32 dustries. The board's chairman will be elected annually by the members
33 of the board.

34 (3) A vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term shall be filled
35 in the same manner as the original appointment and for the balance of the un-
36 expired term.

37 (4) The duties of the STEM action center shall include:

- 38 (a) Coordinate all state departments and divisions on STEM-related ac-
39 tivities;
- 40 (b) Perform industry needs and education process foci on industry
41 career talent, gap analysis and needs assessment to lead future STEM
42 teacher professional development activities and goals;

1 (c) Align public education STEM activities with higher education STEM
2 activities;

3 (d) Identify and coordinate best practices among public education and
4 higher education;

5 (e) Strategically engage industry and business entities to cooperate
6 with the STEM action center and focus outcomes and goals on workforce
7 needs and opportunities;

8 (f) Support high quality professional development focused on career
9 readiness and talent development and provide other assistance for edu-
10 cators and students;

11 (g) Work cooperatively with the Idaho department of education and the
12 Idaho state board of education to define and implement pilot programs
13 and select schools to:

14 (i) Further STEM education;

15 (ii) Ensure best practices are implemented; and

16 (iii) Integrate research and document results of that research;
17 and

18 (h) Engage private entities to provide additional funding and/or
19 in-kind employee time for STEM activities in schools supporting in-
20 dustry career readiness in addition to what is currently provided by
21 private entities.

22 (5) The duties and oversight of the STEM action center shall not inter-
23 fere or conflict with the duties and oversight of the state board of educa-
24 tion.

25 (6) As funding allows, the administrator of the STEM action center
26 shall:

27 (a) Support high-quality professional development for educators re-
28 garding STEM education;

29 (b) Ensure the STEM action center acts as a research and development
30 center for tools and best practice in STEM education coordination and
31 development;

32 (c) Review and acquire STEM education related instructional materials
33 and products for:

34 (i) Educator high-quality professional development;

35 (ii) Assessment, data collection, analysis and reporting; and

36 (iii) Public school instruction; and

37 (d) Facilitate participation in interscholastic STEM related competi-
38 tions, fairs, expositions, camps and STEM education student programs;

39 (e) Engage private industry in the development and maintenance of the
40 STEM action center and STEM action center projects;

41 (f) Use resources to bring the latest STEM content, 21st century skills
42 and hands-on STEM education resources into public education classroom
43 schools;

44 (g) Annually identify at least five (5) best practice innovations used
45 in Idaho schools that have resulted in growth in interest and perfor-
46 mance in STEM by students and teachers involved in pilot programs, math
47 academies and STEM projects;

48 (h) Identify best practices being used outside the state and, as ap-
49 propriate, develop and implement selected practices through pilot pro-
50 grams;

- 1 (i) As appropriate, join and participate in a national STEM network and
2 collaborate with neighboring states in STEM program development;
- 3 (j) Identify performance changes linked to use of the best practices;
- 4 (k) Support best methods of high-quality professional development for
5 STEM education in kindergarten through grade 12, including methods of
6 high-quality professional development pilot programs that reduce cost
7 and increase effectiveness, implement practices that support industry
8 career readiness and talent development, and help educators learn how
9 to most effectively implement STEM best practices, 21st century skills
10 and STEM resources in classrooms;
- 11 (l) Support targeted high-quality professional development for im-
12 proved instruction in K-12 STEM education, including:
- 13 (i) Improved instructional materials and resources that are dy-
14 namic and engaging for students;
- 15 (ii) Targeted instruction for students who traditionally avoid
16 enrolling in STEM courses;
- 17 (iii) Introduction of engaging engineering and other STEM pro-
18 grams;
- 19 (iv) Use of applied instruction; and
- 20 (v) Introduction of other research-based methods that support
21 student achievement in STEM areas; and
- 22 (m) Provide an Idaho best practices STEM resource database, including
23 best practices from public education, higher education, informal STEM
24 partners and other STEM related entities.
- 25 (7) The board may prescribe other duties for the STEM action center in
26 addition to the responsibilities described in this section.
- 27 (8) The administrator shall track and compare the growth of students
28 participating in a STEM action center program to all other similarly situ-
29 ated students in the state, in the following STEM related activities, at the
30 beginning and end of each year:
- 31 (a) Public education high school graduation rates;
- 32 (b) The number of students taking STEM courses at an institution of pub-
33 lic higher education;
- 34 (c) The number of students who graduate from an Idaho public school and
35 begin a postsecondary education program; and
- 36 (d) The number of students, as compared to all similarly situated stu-
37 dents, who are performing at grade level in STEM classes.
- 38 (9) The STEM action center board may:
- 39 (a) Enter into contracts for the purposes of this section;
- 40 (b) Apply for, receive and disburse funds, contributions or grants from
41 any source for the purposes set forth in this section; and
- 42 (c) Employ, compensate and prescribe the duties and powers of individu-
43 als necessary to execute the duties and powers of the board for the STEM
44 action center.
- 45 (10) The board shall report the progress of the STEM action center, in-
46 cluding the information described in subsection (4) of this section, to the
47 following groups once each year:
- 48 (a) The house and senate education committees;
- 49 (b) The governor's office;
- 50 (c) The joint finance-appropriations committee; and

- 1 (d) The state board of education.
- 2 (11) The report described in subsection (10) of this section shall in-
- 3 clude information that demonstrates the effectiveness of the program, in-
- 4 cluding:
- 5 (a) The number of educators receiving high-quality STEM professional
- 6 development;
- 7 (b) The number of students receiving services from the STEM action cen-
- 8 ter; and the number of students participating in STEM camps, academies,
- 9 pilot programs and classroom STEM activities;
- 10 (c) A report on the STEM action center's fulfillment of its duties; and
- 11 (d) Student performance of students participating in a STEM action cen-
- 12 ter program.