

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 576

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING SECTION 33-4802, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE LEG-
2 ISLATIVE FINDINGS; AND AMENDING SECTION 33-4804, IDAHO CODE, TO ESTAB-
3 LISH THE PUBLIC SCHOOL DIGITAL CONTENT AND CURRICULUM FUND, TO PROVIDE
4 FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FUND, AND TO SPECIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR ADDI-
5 TIONAL DISTRIBUTIONS.
6

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

8 SECTION 1. That Section 33-4802, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
9 amended to read as follows:

10 33-4802. FINDINGS. The legislature hereby finds, determines, and de-
11 clares that the state of Idaho recognizes the importance of applying tech-
12 nology to meet the public need for an improved, thorough, and seamless pub-
13 lic education system for elementary and secondary education, education of
14 the hearing or visually impaired, postsecondary and higher education, and
15 public libraries. The legislature has funded technology infrastructure to
16 enable the state's public schools to have the necessary technology that sup-
17 ports student learning, but many districts are unable to maximize the tech-
18 nology infrastructure at the classroom level by adding digital content and
19 curriculum.

20 SECTION 2. That Section 33-4804, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
21 amended to read as follows:

22 33-4804. PUBLIC SCHOOL ~~TECHNOLOGY GRANTS~~ DIGITAL CONTENT AND CURRICU-
23 LUM FUND. (1) There is hereby established in the state treasury the public
24 school ~~technology grant program~~ digital content and curriculum fund, to
25 be ~~implemented~~ administered by the state department of education, which
26 shall make available ~~grants~~ moneys in the fund, subject to appropriation,
27 for schools to provide Idaho classrooms, including classrooms at the Idaho
28 bureau of educational services for the deaf and the blind, with ~~the equip-~~
29 ~~ment and resources necessary to integrate information age technology with~~
30 ~~instruction and to further connect those classrooms with external telecom-~~
31 ~~munications services.~~ Grant applications shall include a project plan
32 that describes proposed equipment and software purchases; how the proposed
33 equipment and software will be used effectively in the classroom; provision
34 for training teachers to make optimal use of the technology; and provision
35 for local matching funds as prescribed digital content and curriculum that
36 directly impact student achievement and improve performance. Curriculum
37 programs shall be designed to enhance outcomes for students in career tech-
38 nical education, character education, enrichment activities, reading and
39 mathematics, and activities that increase grade-to-grade promotion and en-
40 hance career and college readiness. Moneys from the fund may also be spent on

1 academic text support systems that include authentic fiction and nonfiction
2 books, provide reader supports, provide teaching tools, and promote parent
3 engagement. Moneys in the fund shall consist of legislative appropriations
4 and are continuously appropriated for the purposes identified in this sec-
5 tion. Any interest earned on idle moneys in the fund shall be returned to the
6 fund.

7 (2) Subject to availability, moneys in the fund shall be distributed
8 at the request of a local education agency (LEA) and shall be based on the
9 amount requested. A single request must not exceed fifty thousand dollars
10 (\$50,000). Distributions from the fund shall be made on a first-come, first-
11 served basis to LEAs that meet the criteria outlined in this subsection. If
12 an LEA meets such criteria but a distribution cannot be made due to lack of
13 available moneys, such LEA's request shall be prioritized, in the order re-
14 ceived, once moneys become available. Two (2) or more LEAs may jointly re-
15 quest a distribution. To qualify for funding, an LEA must:

16 (a) Have technology infrastructure in place to facilitate usage of the
17 digital content and curriculum; and

18 (b) Submit an explanation for how the distribution will be used to
19 improve performance and enhance student achievement. Explanations
20 should include:

21 (i) The amount of moneys requested;

22 (ii) The type of content or curriculum to be purchased;

23 (iii) How the purchase will assist the LEA in meeting its identi-
24 fied measurable targets from its continuous improvement plan as
25 described in section 33-320, Idaho Code; and

26 (iv) How progress toward those targets will be measured.

27 (3) Additional distributions shall be granted to an LEA only if, after
28 the initial distribution, the LEA has met or is making demonstrable progress
29 toward its measurable targets.