

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 637

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION AND TEACHERS; AMENDING SECTION 33-1207A, IDAHO CODE, TO REVISE PROVISIONS RELATING TO TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AT THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, TO PROVIDE FOR REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO FULL CERTIFICATION OF CERTAIN TEACHERS AND TO MAKE A TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

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

SECTION 1. That Section 33-1207A, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby amended to read as follows:

33-1207A. TEACHER PREPARATION. (1) Higher Education Institutions. The state board shall review teacher preparation programs at the institutions of higher education under ~~their~~ its supervision and shall assure that the course offerings and graduation requirements are consistent with the state board approved, research based "Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Plan." To ~~assure the most immediate~~ ensure compliance with this requirement, the board may allocate funds, subject to appropriation, to the higher education institutions which require revision of the program that have teacher preparation programs.

The state board higher education institutions shall be responsible for the development of a single preservice assessment measure for all kindergarten through grade ~~eight~~ twelve (§12) teacher preparation programs. The assessment must include a demonstration of teaching skills and knowledge congruent with current research on best reading practices. ~~In addition the assessment must include how children acquire language; the basic sound structure of English, including phonological and phonemic awareness; phonics and structural analysis; semantics and syntactics; how to select reading textbooks; and how to use diagnostic tools and test data to improve teaching. It shall also include the preservice teacher's knowledge base of reading process: phonological awareness; sound symbol correspondence (intensive, systematic phonemes); semantics (meaning); syntax (grammar and language patterns); pragmatics (background knowledge and life experience); and comprehension and critical thinking. By September 2002, all K-8 teacher candidates from an Idaho teacher preparation program shall pass this assessment in order to qualify for an Idaho standard elementary teaching certificate. The state board shall report the number of preservice teachers taking and passing the performance based reading assessment to the legislature and governor annually. All costs associated with administration of this test shall be borne by the institution which administers the test and shall be shown as a line item in the appropriation request of the institution for state reimbursement. Each institution shall report annually to the state board of education the number of preservice teachers who have passed the assessment. The state board of education shall~~

1 then compile the statewide results and report to the legislature and the  
2 governor.

3 ~~(2) In service Programs. Each teacher employed in a classroom for~~  
4 ~~kindergarten through grade eight (8), Title I, or special education and~~  
5 ~~each school administrator of a school which includes kindergarten through~~  
6 ~~grade eight (8), Title I, or special education shall complete three (3)~~  
7 ~~credits (or forty five (45) contact hours of in service training) of a state~~  
8 ~~approved reading instruction course titled "Idaho Comprehensive Literacy~~  
9 ~~Course" based on the state approved research based "Idaho Comprehensive~~  
10 ~~Literacy Plan" in order to recertify. Courses which qualify for credit~~  
11 ~~shall be approved by the state department of education, and any educator who~~  
12 ~~completes a state approved reading instruction course prior to September~~  
13 ~~2001, shall be deemed to have met the requirements of this subsection. For~~  
14 ~~all Idaho teachers working on interim certificates, alternate routes or~~  
15 ~~coming from out of state c~~Completion of a state approved reading instruction  
16 course shall be a one-time requirement for renewal of full certification for  
17 those currently employed in an Idaho school district and shall be included  
18 within current requirements for continuing education for renewal. The  
19 department shall provide a waiver of this requirement if the applicant  
20 successfully completes the reading assessment measure developed for  
21 preservice purposes as provided in subsection (1) of this section. The  
22 department shall establish a procedure to allow a waiver of this requirement  
23 if the applicant teaches in a secondary grade subject which does not directly  
24 involve teaching reading or writing.

25 (3) The board of trustees of every school district shall include  
26 in its plan for in-service training, coursework covering reading skills  
27 development, including diagnostic tools to review and adjust instruction  
28 continuously, and the ability to identify students who need special help in  
29 reading. The district plan for in-service training in reading skills shall  
30 be submitted to the state department of education for review and approval, in  
31 a format specified by the department.