

IN THE _____

BILL NO. _____

BY _____

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

2 SECTION 1. That Chapter 3, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is hereby
3 amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and designated
4 as Section 19A, and to read as follows:

5 33-319A. RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS - RURAL EDUCATION SUPPORT NETWORKS. - (1) As
6 used in this section:

7 (a) "School district" means an Idaho public school district, public
8 charter school, and the school for the deaf and the blind.

9 (b) "Member" means a school district, institute of higher education, or
10 business that has entered into a memorandum of understanding with a
11 Rural Education Support Network.

12 (c) "Incubator process" means a process where school districts that are
13 willing and ready to establish a Rural Education Support Network are
14 identified by the state department of education and receive support
15 from the state department of education as outlined in this section.

16 (2) The state department of education is hereby authorized to establish
17 Rural Education Support Networks. It shall be the intent and purpose of this
18 section to define a Rural Education Support Network as a body that will:

19 (a) Facilitate the coordination or sharing of educational programs,
20 services, or information among members not in conflict with other
21 laws; and

22 (b) Improve the efficacy and impact of existing educational resources,
23 and assist members in procuring additional resources where requested;
24 and

25 (c) Ensure educational opportunities and equity for all students; and

26 (d) Be dedicated to developing a well-educated and well-trained
27 workforce in the communities it serves; and

28 (e) Have a membership composed of school districts, institutes of
29 higher education, and business, or any combination thereof; and

30 (f) Occupy a physical space for the intent of fulfilling the business

31 and management duties in this section, but not to serve as the
32 designated, single location for the delivery of in-person educational
33 services or instruction to students; and

34 (g) Adhere to the requirements outlined in this section and any rules
35 promulgated for the administration and implementation of this section.

36 (3) Each Rural Education Support Network shall engage in the following
37 activities:

38 (a) Enter into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with school
39 districts, institutes of higher education, or businesses who are ready
40 and willing to participate in order to benefit educational and
41 workforce development needs in the communities served by the Rural
42 Education Support Network. The Rural Education Support Network may
43 collaborate with the state department of education to develop the MOU.
44 Once a MOU is finalized and signed, the school district, institute of
45 higher education, or business becomes a member of the Rural Education
46 Support Network. The MOU will describe at a minimum:

47 (i) Any financial arrangement between the member and the Rural
48 Education Support Network; and

49 (ii) The extent to which leaders representing the member are
50 expected to engage in governance or guidance of the Rural
51 Education Support Network; and

52 (iii) The process through which the member's educational or
53 workforce needs will be diagnosed and addressed.

54 (b) Diagnose the educational or workforce development needs of each
55 member.

56 (c) Address the educational or workforce development needs of each
57 member district by combining, sharing, and procuring new services and
58 resources to meet these needs where appropriate and desired by
59 members.

60 (4) Each Rural Education Support Network shall be administered by a director
61 who shall:

62 (a) Be selected by the members involved with the establishment of that
63 Rural Education Support Network, with input from the state department
64 of education; and

65 (b) Be contracted with the state department of education; and

66 (c) Facilitate the process by which members enter into and exit from a
67 MOU with the Rural Education Support Network; and

68 (d) Facilitate the process through which members' educational or
69 workforce development needs are diagnosed and addressed; and

70 (e) Engage with leaders representing each member through regular
71 collaboration and ongoing communication; and

72 (f) Establish, in partnership with members, the governance structure
73 of the Rural Education Support Network; and

74 (g) Direct the use of funds available to the Rural Education Support
75 Network to improve education services and workforce development
76 activities pursuant to subsection (2) of this section. The use of
77 funds may include contracting additional staff to assist in the
78 administration of the Rural Education Support Network pursuant to
79 subsection (2) of this section.

80 (5) The state department of education shall perform the following activities
81 to establish Rural Education Support Networks in Idaho:

82 (a) Facilitate an incubator process to establish one Rural Education
83 Support Network in fiscal year 2018.

84 (b) Engage with existing workforce development efforts in Idaho to
85 support and advise Rural Education Support Networks.

86 (c) Determine, in partnership with each Rural Education Support Network,
87 the process through which the educational and workforce development impact
88 of each Rural Education Support Network shall be evaluated.

89 (d) Determine, in partnership with each Rural Education Support
90 Network, the process through which the educational and workforce
91 development impact of each Rural Education Support Network shall be
92 communicated to its members.

93 (e) Provide initial funding for the fiscal year during which the Rural
94 Education Support Network is established.

95 (f) Ensure that members select a director of their Rural Education
96 Support Network.

97 (6) The state board of education shall promulgate rules for the
98 administration and implementation of this chapter.