

Instructional Technology

Technology Education and Certificates FY20



OVERVIEW

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says 50 percent of current jobs required some degree of technology skills and by 2022 at least three out of every four jobs will require those skills. Idaho statistics corroborate these trends. Recognizing that Idaho employers are increasingly demanding basic skills by employees in software programs commonly used in business and college environments, in 2015 the Idaho Legislature funded a project to provide free training in those programs for Idaho students in grades 9-12, and for adults, including teachers and community members.

The \$1,295,245.40 appropriated in FY2020 covers projects that include three or more of the following components:

- (1) Certification of skills and competencies;
- (2) Professional development for teachers;
- (3) Integration with curriculum standards;
- (4) Online access to research-based content and curriculum; or
- (5) Instructional software for classroom use.

Microsoft Imagine Academy - Program costs \$505,506.15

The Idaho Microsoft Imagine Academy helps bridge the skills gap by providing Idaho schools the curriculum for teaching technology and the learning tools that will enable students and teachers to achieve success. The courses can also be self-taught coursework (available at participating public libraries), designed for those taking the classes to work at their own pace.

Microsoft Certifications

Students participating in Microsoft Imagine Academy can earn Microsoft Office Specialist Certifications. In just three years, the program saw a nearly 65% increase in the number of certifications earned by students. In the 2019/2020 school year, the COVID-19 disruptions resulted in a decline, but the number of students enrolled in FY2021 shows the program will quickly rebound.

In addition to certifications in Microsoft Office applications like Word, Excel and PowerPoint, the Microsoft Imagine Academy package also provides certifications in specific advanced-technology skills such as a Microsoft Technology Associate (MTA) and Microsoft Certifications Solutions Associate/ Expert (MCSA/MCSE). Finally, the Microsoft Certified Educator (MCE) exams also measure competency in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The latter programs can help students move directly into information technology jobs.

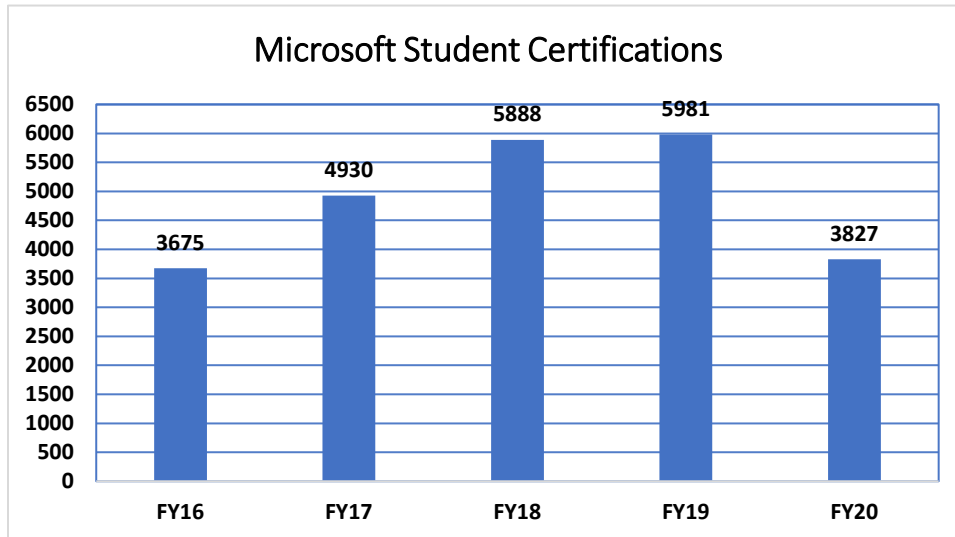
Tables 1 and 2 show the number of students and teachers receiving Microsoft certifications in each of the previous five years.

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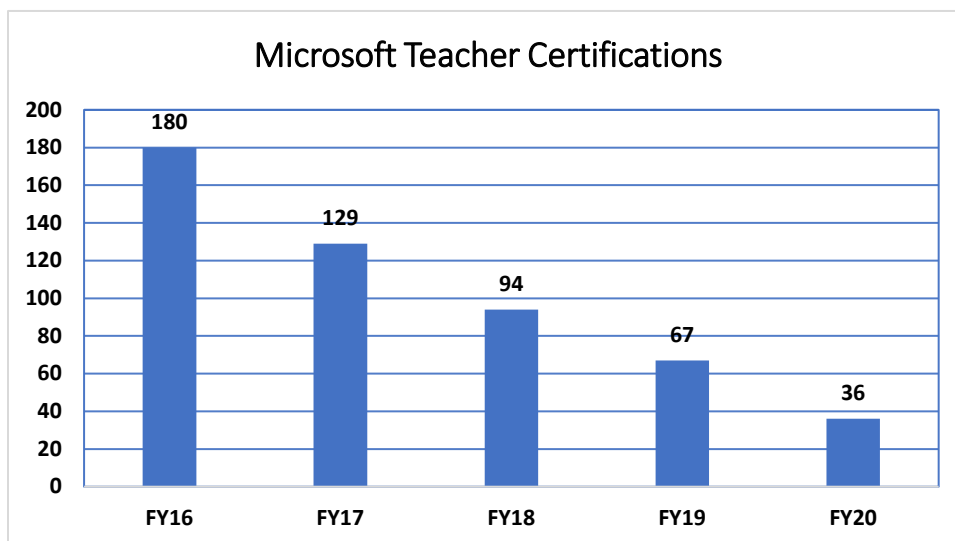


Table 1 – Microsoft Student Certifications



Educators are also able and encouraged to receive their Microsoft Certifications and many of those teaching computer science courses received their certifications in the early years of the program. Table 2 shows the number of teachers receiving Microsoft certifications in each of the previous five years.

Table 2 – Microsoft Teacher Certifications



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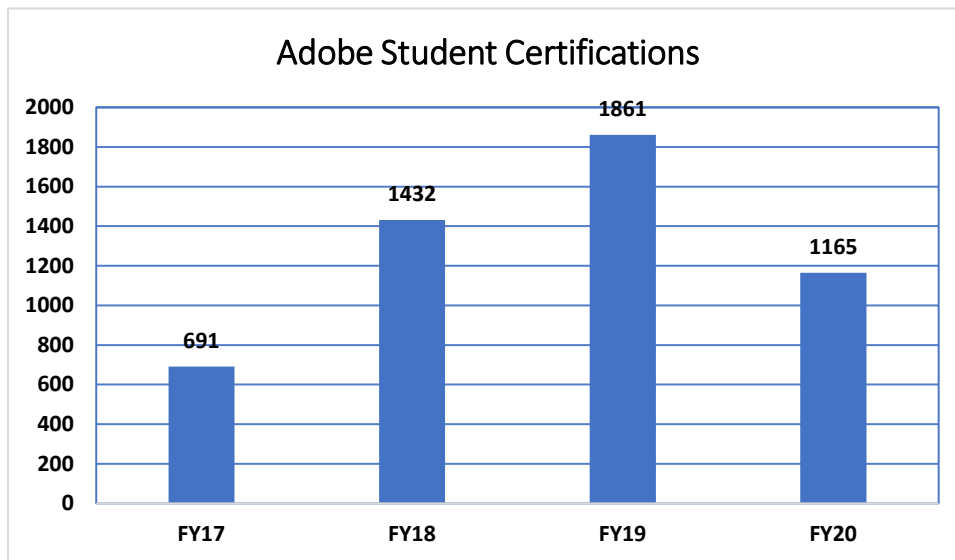
Create Idaho Adobe - Program costs \$789,739.25

In the 2016/17 school year, Idaho was the first state to implement a state partnership with Adobe, launching Create Idaho. The partnership offers students and educators certifications in a collection of software used for graphic design, video editing, web development and photography. These programs, like InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop allow students to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and their individual creativity. Certifications for Adobe more than doubled after the first year. In addition, the number of schools participating in Create Idaho grew from 25 in the first year to 65 schools in the second year and is now operating in over 170 schools in the state. Again, COVID-19 disruptions resulted in a decline in FY2020, but we are on track to exceed prior performance in FY2021.

Adobe Certifications

Table 3 shows the number of students receiving Adobe certifications in each of the previous four years.

Table 3 – Adobe Student Certifications



Educators are also able and encouraged to receive their Adobe Certifications and many of those teaching computer science courses received their certifications in the early years of the program. Tables 4 shows the number of teachers receiving Adobe certifications in each of the previous four years.

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Table 4 – Adobe Teacher Certifications

