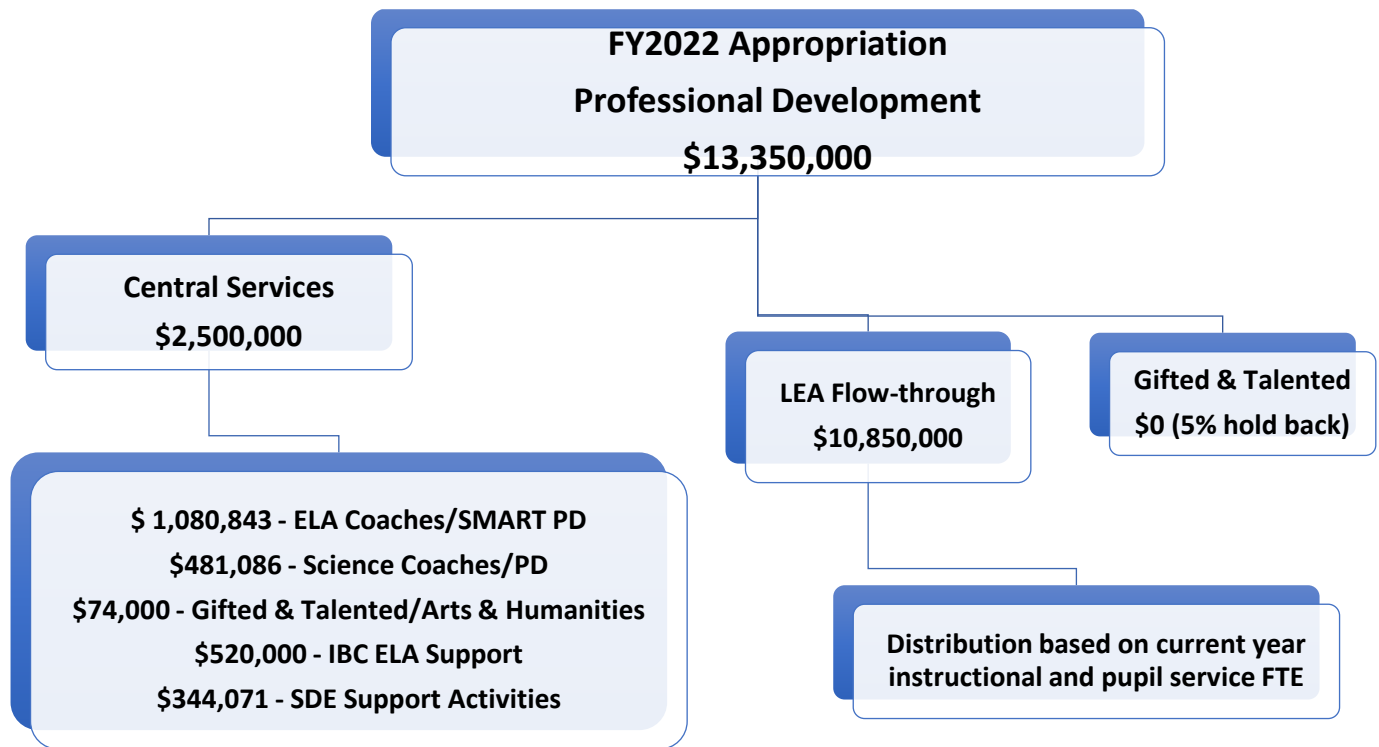




### Professional Development

Professional development funds support resources in the State Department of Education in the superintendent’s central services budget. Funds distributed to districts and charter schools are to be used to support professional development activities for educators and staff to improve student learning and can be used for educator mentoring and collaboration.



### Idaho ELA/Literacy Coaches

The State Department of Education has full-time regional coaches focused on supporting educators in improving instructional practices and developing deeper understanding of Idaho’s Comprehensive Literacy Plan and the science of teaching reading. \$1,080,843 is allocated and used to contract with 15 ELA/Early Literacy specialists in the science of teaching reading to provide this strategic support.

Idaho Striving to Meet Achievement in Reading Together (SMART) is a multi-year cohort project to train K-3 educators to provide instruction and intervention rooted in the science of reading. The goal of Idaho SMART is to train and support K-3 educators to provide science of reading aligned instruction that will improve the outcomes of K-3 students as evidenced by increased achievement on the IRI.

K-3 educators who sign up for SMART participate in facilitated learning utilizing Dr. Louisa Moats’ *Speech to Print* text, guided implementation of evidence-based practices, and receive coaching to sustain changes in their delivery of instruction and intervention.

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### Math Initiative

In 2008, through Idaho Code 33-1627, the Idaho Legislature acknowledged that mathematical skills are increasingly important to the future academic and career success of Idaho students. To promote improvement of mathematical instruction and student achievement, the statute calls for one or more of the following: high quality, ongoing professional development for Idaho educators; a statewide online mathematical instruction program for remedial and advancement opportunities; and formative assessments to assist teachers in identification purposes. The superintendent's budget for FY20/21 appropriated \$1,817,321 for the initiative. Eighty-two percent of the allocation provides funding for the Idaho Regional Math Centers, described in the next section.

### Idaho Regional Math Centers

The Idaho Regional Mathematics Centers are housed within the colleges of education at each of Idaho's four-year institutions of higher education: Boise State University, Lewis Clark State College, Idaho State University and the University of Idaho. The diversity and geography associated with Idaho's districts and schools necessitates a need for a statewide system of regional centers. Each center is staffed with Directors and Regional Specialists, all of whom have experience in K-16 mathematics education, designing and delivering professional development, instructional technologies and educational research.

Regional center staff work collaboratively with the State Department of Education to ensure the best possible support is provided for each region. The Regional Math Center Directors work closely with the SDE Mathematics Coordinate to strategically plan statewide initiatives and implement them. During the 2022 fiscal year, the Regional Math Centers focused on providing customized schoolwide professional development to schools identified as high needs in their regions using the factors of student achievement and socio-economic status. They also focused on aligning and providing the Teaching Mathematical Thinking courses, developing a statewide network of mathematics teacher leaders, and providing professional development for the Idaho Math Transitions project.

### Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars

Idaho Science and Aerospace Scholars (ISAS) is a competitive program that allows high school juniors to take an engaging online NASA-developed course on Space Exploration through Idaho Digital Learning that teaches a broad range of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills aligned with Idaho Content Standards. Students are allowed to dual enroll for this class and earn Boise State credit. The top 80 students from the online course participated in one of two week long in person academies hosted at Boise State University. During the academy week students worked in one of four groups that came together to plan a mission to Mars. The academy also included a trip to the Jet Propulsion Lab in Burbank, California where they toured facilities and talked with scientists and engineers working on current NASA projects. 2022 was the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the program. The allocation for this program is \$362,300.

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### Science Coaches

The Idaho Science Coaches are experienced science teachers contracted by the SDE to provide customized professional development services as requested by districts, schools and teachers. They teach a nine-week online course, supporting teachers in implementing the standards in their own classrooms, reaching 15-40 education professionals per session; a 4-week course on integrating Science and English Language Arts in K-5 classrooms reaching 10-30 education professionals per session; a six week course on using phenomena to shape instruction reaching 10-30 education professionals per session; and a 6 week course on how administrators and instructional coaches can support science educators reaching 15-30 education professional per session. Additionally, they produce a monthly newsletter with announcements and resource links reaching 5,000 people a month. They also find and create resources that are currently being used to build a new science resource website that will be linked on the State Department of Education science website. We started the year with 4 coaches in 3 regions, we are now up to 7 coaches in 5 regions. Some coaches are full time while other are part time and still working in the classroom. We have contracted out \$317,550 for the science coaching program.

### Think Make Create Trailers Partnership

Partnership to help promote science opportunities both inside and outside of the classroom. SDE helps fund supplies for some of the 25 trailers and helps with training on using the Idaho Science Content Standards with the TMC curriculum. The allocation for this project is \$50, 400.

### Bring Idaho Alive Partnership with the Museum of Idaho

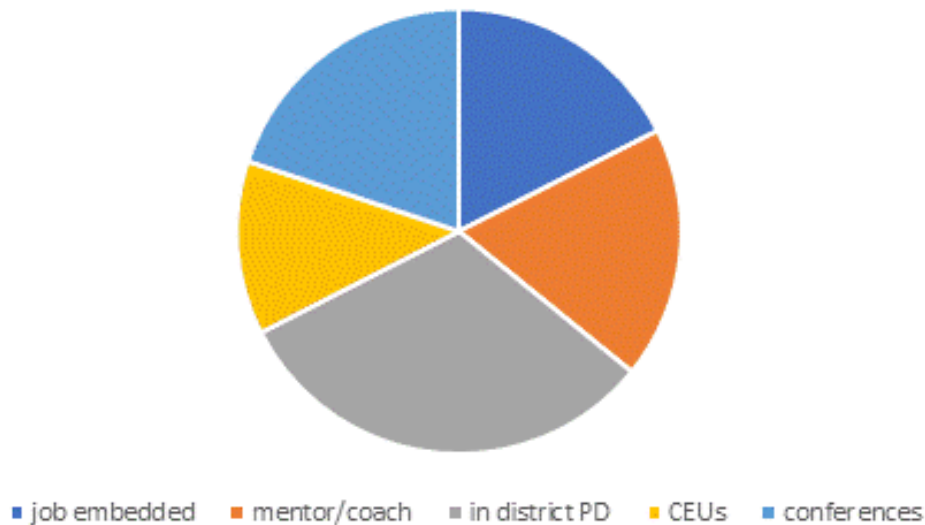
SDE contracts out with the Museum of Idaho to provide a class based on Idaho geology, weather, animals, archaeology, and plants. Educators are provided with free kits to be able to use in their classroom as well as hearing from Idaho experts in each of the fields of study. 75 educators per session. The allocation for this project is \$72, 920.



### LEA Professional Development Flow-through Funds

A study conducted of district and charter spending of professional development funds distributed to districts per HO385 Section 4 found on average, 17.8% was spent for job embedded professional development, 18.6% for mentor teachers and/or instructional coaches, 32.1% for in district professional development, 12.8% for continuing education, 20.2% on conferences, spent of district allocated funds. The table below gives a quick view of frequency.

District Usage of State PD Dollars



Effectiveness of these professional development programs were evaluated primarily by the degree of implementation in classrooms, teacher evaluations by building principals, input from teachers at PLCs and staff meetings, as well as through surveys, review of student data, attendance, and graduation rates. Whereas it was reported that positive student outcomes were most effected by increased teacher collaboration time and training in the use of data in design of instruction, it was often noted that all professional development which increased teacher capacity resulted in improved success of the student.