

# Instructional Technology

Technology Education and Certificates FY24

## Overview

In 2023 there were 17,490 open technology jobs in Idaho. The average salary for computing occupations in Idaho is \$116,000 which is significantly higher than the average salary in the state (\$85,000)<sup>1</sup> Idaho meets these growing opportunities for our students by providing software, ongoing technical support and certification exams for students and teachers. These programs provide an opportunity for students to hand an industry certification to potential employers or collegiate recruits. Idaho students continue to make strides in knowledge and use of varying industry requested technologies.

## House Bill No. 1209, Section 8

The \$1,570,000 appropriated in FY2024 covers projects that include three or more of the following components:

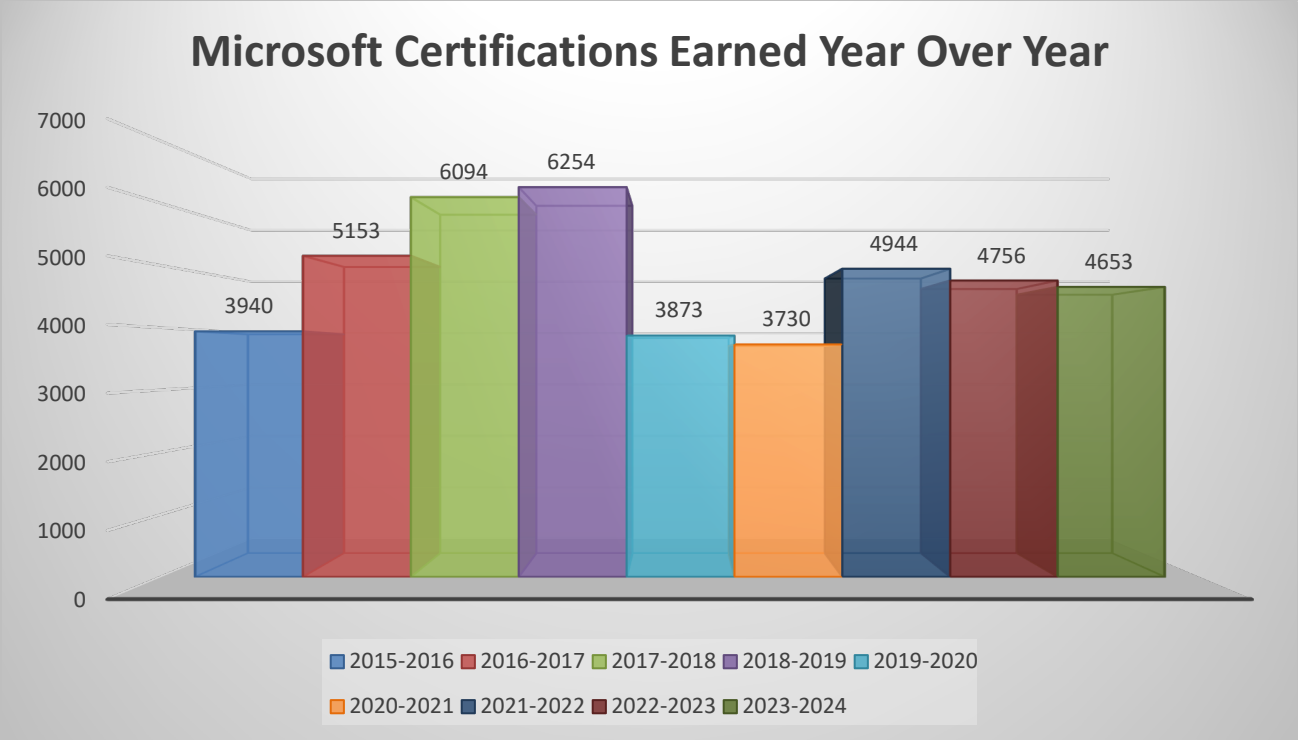
1. Certification of skills and competencies;
2. Professional development for teachers;
3. Integration with curriculum standards;
4. Online access to research-based content and curriculum; or
5. Instructional software for classroom use

## Microsoft Office- Program cost \$308,216

Certification exams for students and teachers are included in this program. Students gain critical job skills and are more prepared in college to meet high rigor demands due to their exposure and industry certifications. Certifications include: Word (2146), PowerPoint (1321), Excel (1075), Outlook (65), Access (46), and Microsoft Fundamentals (14). This program is available to 6-12 grade classrooms across Idaho.

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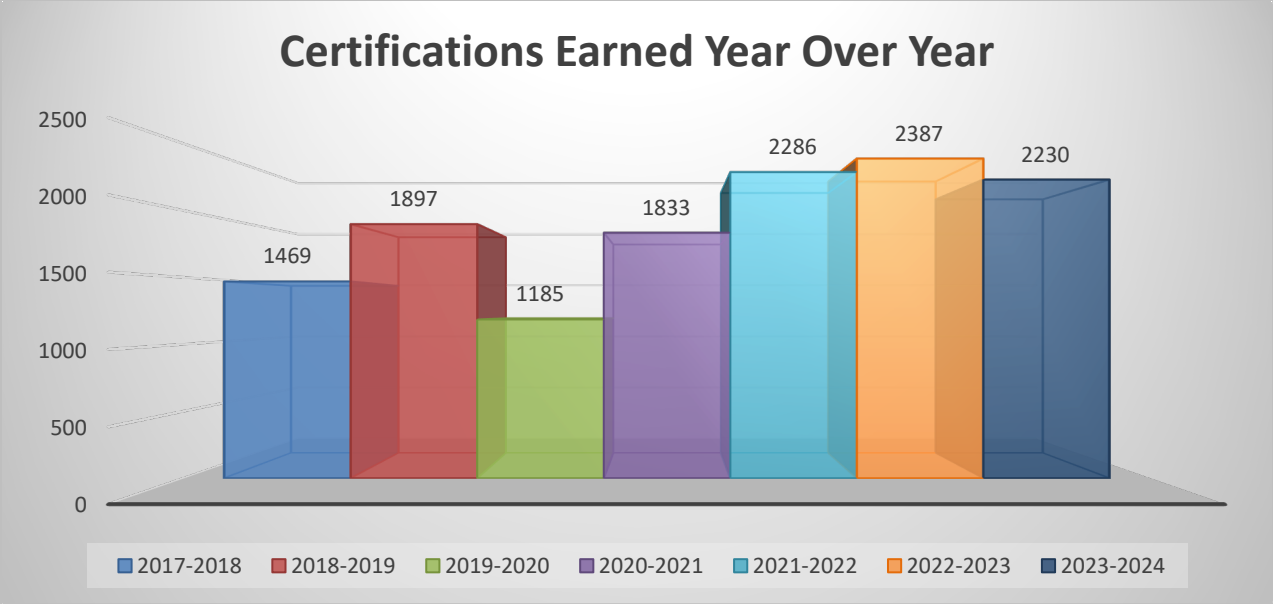
<sup>1</sup> Source: Lightcast, 2023 Job Demand



During the 23-24 school year we purchased 125 licenses, and 87 schools tested in Microsoft Office programs.

**Create Idaho Adobe- Program cost \$712,648**

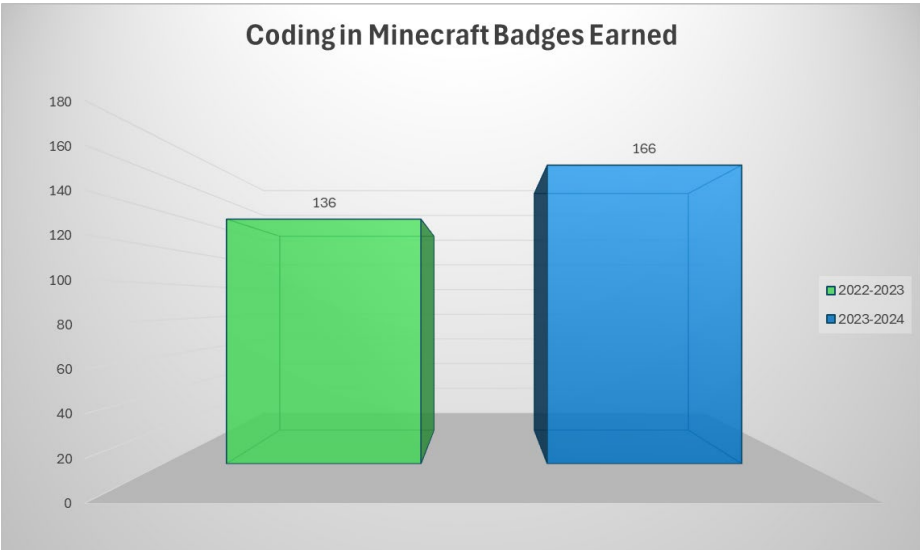
Adobe Creative Cloud software and certification exams for students and teachers are included in this program. Creative communication technologies remain on the rise for our students with growing interest in Adobe. Students are starting businesses and leaping into careers that now require Adobe skills. Certifications include: After Effects (24), Animate (8), Dreamweaver (16), Illustrator (355), InDesign (99), Photoshop (1322), and Premiere Pro (131). 275 students earned certifications in multiple areas. This program is available to 6-12 grade classrooms across Idaho.



During school year 23-24 we purchased 232 licenses. 80 schools tested students on Adobe programs.

**Coding in Minecraft- Program cost \$89,612**

Minecraft Education and Coding in Minecraft software, curriculum, professional development for teachers, and credential exams for students are all included in this program. This is a new Program for 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders across Idaho. They are learning JavaScript and Python (2 of the most sought after), coding languages through a favorite technology platform for this age group.



\*\*We can only see badges earned if a teacher grades using the portal in Coding in Mindcraft. This number is most likely higher as many teachers use their school provided grading program.

### **Pilot of ITS, Autocad, and Quickbooks- \$285,274**

April 2024 a contract was put into place with Brainbuffet and Certiport so that students could certify in Autocad, Informational Technology Specialist (ITS), and Quickbooks. In the 3 months that students had access to these programs, there were 150 who earned certificates: ITS certificates(59) and Quickbooks (91)certificates.

### **Professional Development and Curriculum for Technology programs- cost \$174,250**

The state purchased the Brainbuffet platform so that teachers have curriculum to help teach Microsoft and Adobe programs. (\$150,000)

In July 2023 Micromax was held in 3 locations in Idaho and served 100 teachers. Micromax is a one-day event for new and returning teachers to learn about changes in the programs and deepen their skills and knowledge in each of our programs.

We also hired 4 technology facilitators around the state to help teachers with troubleshooting programs and be a though partner on how the programs can be used in the classroom.

**Debbie Critchfield, Superintendent of Public Instruction**

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