



**Idaho State Department of Education**  
650 W State Street, Second Floor • Boise ID 83720  
Lewis & Clark Conference Room

## Minutes

Members present: Senator Dean Mortimer, Josh Whitworth (SCO), Diann Roberts (SDE), Louie Konkol (SDE). Members absent; Representative Julie VanOrden. Others present: Tim McMurtrey, Duncan Robb, Helen Price, Emily McClure, Claudia Miner (by phone).

Shortly after 8 a.m., the members of the committee reviewed Section 33-125B, Idaho Code, and IDAPA 08.02.05, Rules Governing Pay for Success Contracting, to review timelines, roles and responsibilities of the committee.

Senator Mortimer volunteered to chair the meeting and asked Claudia Miner of Waterford Institute to provide a brief review of UPSTART. Ms. Miner explained that the program is a home-based, parent-guided, technology-based kindergarten preparedness program. Emily McClure of McClure Policy added that there is also a mentor component for parents. The proposal's assumption is that the pre-K program will increase a student's K-3 performance, and payment for that performance would come from funds that would have otherwise been used for that student's K-3 remediation.

The group discussed the primary challenge with the proposal—With no funding available for pre-K, payment for Pre-K work is problematic. An additional concern is the difficulty of attributing growth in K-3 to a pre-K program versus quality instruction. Diann Roberts questioned whether the UPSTART curriculum would be subject to the SDE's review and approval process. Senator Mortimer stated that he has been clear that Pay for Success starts with kindergarten. Without a specific line item for a Pay for Success pilot, we have to use the funding mechanisms available.

Ms. Miner asked if there are parents who forego kindergarten. The group responded that yes, there are. The group discussed the possibility of using UPSTART for those families whose children do not attend. There are no numbers available for non-kindergarten attendees.

Mr. Konkol added that a major consideration is the savings to the state; what is the proposal versus the appropriation? In addition to the proposal costs, there is a cost for a third-party administrator. Also, it gets increasingly complicated to calculate gains over a second, third and fourth year.

Senator Mortimer asked for a motion for an action, and asked if Ms. Miner or Ms. McClure had any additional statements. Ms. McClure replied that her understanding is that the concept of Pay for Success is to save the state money and to create new routes for innovation. Utah is five years into their process, and kids have stayed ahead. This will help kids.

Ms. Miner stated that she understands these are uncharted waters, and she appreciates the opportunity. Is the committee open to the effort if they resubmit a proposal? Can the committee move quickly? Senator Mortimer replied that the committee's statutory timeline is fast. Mr. Konkol replied that if Waterford is open to a proposal with a K-3 approach, the funding is there.

Mr. Konkol moved to reject the proposal. Ms. Roberts seconded the motion. All in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 a.m.