

The Idaho Legislature requires that all public schools be state accredited. Emphasizing that accreditation will ensure that schools are addressing the requirement for a thorough education and enhancing school improvement, the Idaho State Board of Education has developed five standards which all accredited schools must address in an annual report to the State Department of Education. The five standards address the following:

1. The philosophy and policies of the schools must be aligned with the Idaho Legislature's definition of thorough education.
2. All educators must be certified as defined in the State Board of Education Rules and Idaho Department of Education Professional School Personnel Certification Standards.
3. Schools must develop a written curriculum for each subject area that meets state standards as a minimum and report how they provide technical and vocational training to students.
4. Schools must demonstrate accountability in assessments and measures:
 - a. Establish educational standards for all grade levels and develop high school exiting standards for graduation, in alignment with exiting standards established by the State Board of Education.
 - b. Participate in the statewide testing program and report their test results to district patrons and the State Department of Education.
 - c. Report graduation rates and have a written plan to reduce the number of dropouts.
 - d. Report student attendance.
 - e. Develop a school improvement plan that reflects how the school will remedy deficiencies in accreditation with primary emphasis on student achievement. The schools will report annually to district patrons and the State Department of Education on its effectiveness.
 - f. Report how schools are using special allocation funds to meet thoroughness and school improvement goals.
5. Schools must provide a safe, nurturing, disciplined and orderly learning environment, and must develop a comprehensive district wide policy and procedure encompassing issues of safe environment and discipline.

1. **Approved with Merit:** Schools which have significantly exceeded all accreditation standards with no deviation points, and have successfully met all requirements outlined in the merit review process.
2. **Approved:** Schools which receive zero through fifteen (0-15) deviation points.
3. **Approved with Warning:** Schools which receive sixteen through twenty-five (16-25) deviation points.
4. **Not Approved:** Schools which exceed twenty-five (25) deviation points. The schools will have no more than one year to meet accreditation standards.

State funds will be withheld and a report made to the public if a school's accreditation status is **Not Approved** for more than one consecutive year. Within forty-five (45) days of notification of the adverse rating, this school district will appeal, seeking review by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The State Board of Education allows schools to be accredited by complying with one of four options:

- A. Northwest Association of Schools and Colleges Accreditation Standards
- B. Idaho Elementary/Secondary Accreditation Standards
- C. Idaho School Accreditation School Improvement Model
- D. Alternative School Improvement Plan

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LEGAL REFERENCE:

IDAPA 08.02.02.140

ADOPTED: January 28, 1998