

STAND UP FOR IDAHO SCIENCE STANDARDS

Idaho's science standards have been in the crosshairs every year since 2015, with the House Education Committee consistently opposing the inclusion of climate change and references to the impacts of humans on the earth.

BACKGROUND

In 2021, the House and Senate Education Committee wrote a letter and formed a committee to review the supporting content. In the end, only modest changes were proposed, i.e. referring to “climate variability” instead of “climate change,” and using more vague language on how human activities can impact the environment.

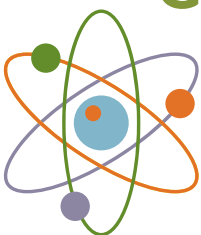
Committee members pressured the State Board of Education to adopt the revised standards but concerns around the cost of updating assessments, training, and curriculum led the Board to defer any changes and bring the original standards that were approved in 2017 by some of Idaho's brightest teachers.

In response, House Education Committee Chairman Lance Clow (R-Twin Falls) introduced to reject the Science, Math, and English Standards. He also introduced a bill requiring the State Board of Education to adopt the draft standards. Instead of going through the regular rule-making process.

TALKING POINTS

- Thousands of jobs in STEM fields are going unfilled in Idaho, which results in tens of millions of dollars in lost wages and lost revenue for the state. STEM fields in Idaho are also expected to grow 15.4% by 2030.
- The legislature should not interfere with the administrative rule process to ensure that all rules are appropriately considered, including costs and consequences of updating assessments, training and curriculum.
- Implementing new Science, Math and English Content Standards could cost up to \$44 million because the tests would need to be updated to reflect the changes made.
- The conflict over standards has been a distraction and has not served students or teachers, which should be the focus.
- We need stronger science standards and more climate education, not less.
- Keep politics out of our science standards.

GUIDANCE FOR PUBLIC TESTIMONY



- Minimize Talk of climate change. Stick with science.
- Testimony should be two minutes or less.
- Direct all communication through the Chairperson.
- Do not attack opponents. Don't take the bait!



For more information on how to stand up for science, visit our website. idahoconservation.org