

There is a growing consensus that public schools need to better adapt to today's workplace demands by providing curriculum and experiences that closely align themselves to the reality of the workplace. The emerging professional-technical skills center approach has been shown to accomplish this end. These schools are intended to serve students of all ability levels, including the gifted and talented. Courses are typically aligned with higher education and have a field experience component. Equipment is more attuned to current industry standards and students from more than one high school access the centers. These centers always exceed the costs associated with a "regular" high school and this factor has discouraged their widespread utilization. Idaho is no exception. It is the intent of the Idaho Legislature to provide a modest increase in per student funding to help cover the additional skill center costs of lower teacher-pupil ratios, transportation, equipment, and field experience supervision.

This district may establish professional-technical schools that qualify for funding appropriated by the Idaho Legislature for the specific purpose of supporting the added cost of professional-technical schools. In order for a school in this district to qualify for funding as a professional-technical school, the district will apply to the division of vocational education on or before the first Friday in July for the following fiscal year.

Each professional-technical school in this district will meet at least four (4) of the five (5) following criteria:

1. The school serves students from two (2) or more high school attendance zones with a minimum of fifteen percent (15%) of the total student body residing in attendance zones apart from the attendance zone of the majority of students.
2. The school offers a majority of its class offerings as dual credit opportunities in conjunction with an accredited institution of higher education.
3. All school programs involve at least one (1) supervised field experience.
4. The school is administered and funded as a distinct school separate from schools that qualify for computation as regular secondary support units.
5. The school is to be located at a separate site from regular high school facilities.

**LEGAL REFERENCE:**

Idaho Code Section 33-1002G

ADOPTED: August 10, 2005**AMENDED:**