

2020 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 11

SUPPORT FOR SCIENCE CONTENT STANDARDS

WHEREAS, Idaho's current science standards were developed by a committee which consisted of K-12 science educators, representatives from higher education, Idaho's STEM industries, and parents; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's current science standards were developed and revised over a three year period; and

WHEREAS, 99% of the public content from all regions of the state was in favor of adopting Idaho's current science standards; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's current science standards represent robust performance standards coupled with supporting content written in an unbiased way that encourages scientific inquiry, problem-solving, and critical thinking; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's current science standards contain a planned scope and sequence of science practices and science content from kindergarten all the way to high school, ensuring that students will interact with a broad variety of scientific concepts over the course of their education; and

WHEREAS, language arts and mathematical thinking are both incorporated into Idaho's current science standards, providing a truly interdisciplinary approach; and

WHEREAS, science educators from across Idaho have been working over the past six months to develop the new state science assessment, which is aligned to Idaho's current science standards and will be administered in 5th, 8th, and 10th grades in the Spring of 2020; and

WHEREAS, Districts and schools across Idaho have already started implementing Idaho's current science standards in preparation for the administration of these new state assessments.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association work to ensure that the science standards and their "Supporting Content" sections, which are incorporated by reference into IDAPA 08.02.03.004.01 and approved by the Legislature in 2018, are maintained and reauthorized by the Idaho Legislature.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Idaho's current Science Standards represent the work of a broad group of stakeholders over a three-year period and have garnered widespread support from stakeholders and citizens across Idaho. Districts and schools have invested significant resources of time

and money into the professional development and curricular materials aligned to these standards over the past year and a half. To revise or not approve the standards as currently written, would represent a significant step backward in our efforts to prepare students with the 21st-century learning skills that will be necessary to fulfill the labor needs of our state's ever-growing STEM job market.

Submitted by Boise School District No. 1

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS

Janie Gebhardt of the ISBA Executive Board will address the Executive Board's recommendation to the membership at the Business Session of the Annual Convention.