

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 (5) 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 a 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.

The Idaho State Board of Education will accredit schools using the following ratings:

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 school districts to be accredited by complying with one or more 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

NORTHWEST ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

To comply with the Idaho Accreditation Standards, the following schools in this school district will obtain accreditation by meeting the Northwest Accreditation Standards:

1. Melba Elementary School
2. Melba Middle School
3. Melba High School

The State Board of Education has determined that Northwest Accreditation Standards are an acceptable method of obtaining state accreditation. The board of trustees believes that accreditation through these standards will allow schools in this district to provide a thorough education for all students, achieve the mission and goals of the district, and allow flexibility in implementing educational programs.

The Idaho Department of Education requires that schools accredited under the Northwest Accreditation Standards annually submit the Northwest Accreditation report and a supplemental state report ensuring that Standard IV (Accountability) has been addressed.

The school principals, with assistance from the superintendent, will complete the annual accreditation reports and submit a copy of them, and a supplemental report regarding Standard IV, to the State Department of Education. The annual reports will address each of the five (5) standards as set forth in the Accreditation Standards and Procedures for Idaho Schools, adopted by the State Board of Education on October 17, 1996.

It is the goal of this district to receive “Approved with Merit” or “Approved” ratings on the annual accreditation for each school in the district. The board of trustees will receive annual reports regarding the ratings received by the various schools. If any schools in this district receive “Approved with Warning” or “Not Approved” ratings, the board of trustees will oversee the implementation of remedial steps to obtain the “Approved with Merit” or “Approved” ratings.

The method by which schools in this district obtain accreditation will be reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

IDAHO ELEMENTARY/SECONDARY ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

To comply with the Idaho Accreditation Standards, the following schools in this school district will obtain accreditation by meeting the Idaho Elementary/Secondary Accreditation Standards:

1. Melba Elementary School
2. Melba Middle School
3. Melba High School

The board of trustees believes that accreditation through these standards will allow the schools in this district to provide a thorough education for all students, achieve the mission and goals of the district, and allow flexibility in implementing educational programs.

The school principals, with assistance from the superintendent, will complete the annual accreditation reports and submit them to the State Department of Education, addressing each of the five (5) standards as set forth in the Accreditation Standards and Procedures for Idaho Schools, adopted by the State Board of Education on October 17, 1996.

It is the goal of this school district to receive “Approved with Merit” or “Approved” ratings on the annual accreditation for each school in the district. The board of trustees will receive annual reports regarding the ratings received by the various schools. If any schools in this district receive “Approved with Warning” or “Not Approved” ratings, the board of trustees will oversee the implementation of remedial steps to obtain the “Approved with Merit” or “Approved” ratings.

The method by which schools in this district obtain accreditation will be reviewed annually by the board of trustees.

SCHOOLS USING THE IDAHO SCHOOL ACCREDITATION SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT MODEL

To comply with the Idaho Accreditation Standards, the following schools in this school district will obtain accreditation by meeting the Idaho School Accreditation School Improvement Model:

1. Melba Elementary School
2. Melba Middle School
3. Melba High School

The board of trustees believes that accreditation through this model will allow schools in this district to provide a thorough education for all students, achieve the mission and goals of the district, and allow flexibility in implementing educational programs.

The school principals, with assistance from the superintendent, will complete the annual accreditation reports and submit them to the State Department of Education, addressing each of the five (5) standards as set forth in the Accreditation Standards and Procedures for Idaho Schools, adopted by the State Board of Education on October 17, 1996.

It is the goal of this school district to receive “Approved with Merit” or “Approved” ratings on the annual accreditation for each school in the district. The board of trustees will receive annual reports regarding the ratings received by the various schools. If any schools in this district receive “Approved with Warning” or “Not Approved” ratings, the board of trustees will oversee the implementation of remedial steps to obtain the “Approved with Merit” or “Approved” ratings.

The method by which schools in this district obtain accreditation will be reviewed annually by the board of trustees.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

IDAPA 08.02.02.140

ADOPTED: December 13, 1999