

CALL FOR ACTION



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING-5/13/2022: Professional Development Councils may not accept work from Idaho State University's (ISU) Covid-19 Professional Development Courses that are completed after May 31, 2022, for PD points or college credit. KSDE will not accept coursework completed as part of the program after May 31, 2022 and will convert each ISU professional development credit to .5 semester hours of college credit for license renewals.



“IN-SERVICE EDUCATION” MEANS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND SHALL INCLUDE ANY PLANNED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED TO LICENSED PERSONNEL EMPLOYED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR OTHER AUTHORIZED EDUCATIONAL AGENCY FOR PURPOSES OF IMPROVING THE PERFORMANCE OF THESE PERSONNEL IN ALREADY HELD OR ASSIGNED POSITIONS

KAR 91-1-215 (d)

Background

Starting at the end of March 2022, KSDE staff have received several inquiries about whether or how professional development points for Idaho State University's (ISU) COVID 19 Professional development courses could receive professional (PD) points. The questions came from professional development councils and individual teachers asking whether the classes were appropriate.

Program Description

Idaho State University is offering one hour of graduate, non-degree, professional development credit for every 15 hours of learning and application of learning a teacher completed between February 202 and now. There are four different classes offered at 1-, 2-, or 3- professional development

credits, allowing for 6 professional development credits for each titled class with a total of 24-semester professional development credits possible for the completion of all 4 classes.

The descriptions for each class are all the same, with no distinction of the course content based on the course title. The only requirement for credits is to “email a log of hours with supporting evidence you spent learning /using new technology, changing lesson plans, etc.”

Findings

There is no plan required for the learning that was documented and no learning objectives. Also, there is no consideration for how the learning in the logs may have already been given PD points from other trainings that the teacher attended.

The only evaluation is of the log itself to ensure that the number of hours logged meets or exceeds the 15 hours of learning required to get 1 professional development credit. The action of documenting previous learning in a log does not improve the performance of the teacher.

In addition to the above, research about and direct communication with the program, show the following about Idaho States COVID-19 Professional Development Credit offered through its Albion Center for Education Innovation:

1. This program does not meet the Kansas definition of in-service education (KAR 91-1-215(d)). The learning activity itself is not planned and only documents what the teacher has already learned. Also, the act of logging previously learned information does not in and of itself improve the performance of the teacher.
2. Idaho State University is a regionally accredited university. However, the professional development credits are issued through the Albion Center for Education Innovation not the Idaho State University registrar's office. This is a unique manner of doing business as credits are usually issued through the registrar's office. The disconnect between the Albion Center for Education Innovation and the registrar's office created issues with the credits nationwide.
3. Since the transcript is not issued through the registrar's office, the transcript key does not refer back to the university's standard conversion of credits to semester college credit hours. Based on the transcript key, one professional development credit from Idaho State University's (ISU) Covid-19 Professional Development Courses will convert to .5 semester college credit hours for Kansas licensing renewals. To calculate the number of semester college credit hours licensed staff will earn if they finish these courses before May 31, 2022, divide the total number of professional development credits by two. For example, if staff completed 15 ISU professional development credits, they will receive 7.5 semester college credit hours.

If a learning activity does not meet the definition of “in-service education”, a PDC should not award PD points for that activity and it will not count for college credit.

For more information, contact:

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