

From: Ryan Cantrell <rcantrell@sde.idaho.gov>

Date: September 12, 2024 at 2:51:23 PM MDT

To: Ryan Cantrell <rcantrell@sde.idaho.gov>

Subject: Re: COSSA Supt Mtg

Hello COSSA members,

As our SDE/OSBE team met internally this week to review the concerns raised in our last meeting, I'm finding that our SDE team needs additional time to understand some potential 'next steps'.

I'll work to reschedule this meeting.

In the meantime, there were some questions were raised in the previous meeting, which are answered/addressed below.

Q1: Does COSSA's current model conflict with Idaho Code 33-317?

A1: COSSA can currently operate and not be in violation of I.C. 33-317.

Q2: Does COSSA's current model conflict with Idaho Code 33-1004b?

A2: The manner in which staff are sometimes reported by both the LEA and COSSA *does*, in fact, violate I.C. 33-1004b. This may need to be addressed by a change to I.C. 33-1004b. The SDE is aware of this, and is discussing potential solutions.

Q3: Should COSSA employees be employees of the individual consortium LEAs, with consortium LEAs in turn paying COSSA for contracted services? Or should COSSA employees be reported by COSSA and SDE funds COSSA for the employees?

A3: COSSA is not an LEA; it's a consortium. Sending money directly (from SDE) to a consortium would require a statutory change to allow for this. Therefore, SDE cannot send staffing dollars directly to COSSA (unless the statute changes).

Q4: Can Wilder's WAVE students be exempt from the COSSA MOU agreement?

A4: That decision is made locally with the COSSA Board. SDE can review the existing MOU and provide feedback. However, the decision ultimately lies with the COSSA Board. I will work with our SDE staff to review the existing MOU and provide feedback on the matter, for the COSSA Board to take into consideration.

I will work with our education partners to better understand potential legislative solutions related to 33-1004b – however, I also realize that other consortiums (i.e. K-TEC and others) must be considered when considering any potential legislative solutions.

I will work to reschedule this meeting when I have additional information and direction to offer this group.



Ryan Cantrell
Chief Deputy Superintendent