

## COST AND EFFECTIVENESS

Undergraduate tuition and fees in the state of Idaho have been outpacing inflation in recent years. Meanwhile, retention and graduation rates remain below national averages.

### COST AND EFFECTIVENESS

Trends in undergraduate tuition and fees	F
Undergraduate tuition and fees as a percentage of median household income	F
First-year retention rates for first-time, full-time freshmen	F
Baccalaureate graduation rates for first-time, full-time freshmen	F
Instructional vs. administrative spending	F
Ratio of new programs to closed programs	P
Performance as a criterion for funding	F

**OVERALL GRADE: F**

### FOUNDED IN 1995, ACTA IS A NATIONAL EDUCATION NON-PROFIT

dedicated to academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability in higher education. This report card is one of a series of publications on higher education designed to provide independent analysis for education leaders, policymakers, and trustees.

The Idaho Freedom Foundation is a non-profit educational and research organization that develops and advocates the principles of individual liberty, personal responsibility, private property rights, economic freedom, and limited government.



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# HERE WE HAVE IDAHO

A State Report Card on Public Higher Education

### Executive Summary

**HERE WE HAVE IDAHO: A STATE REPORT CARD ON PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION** takes a close look at the four-year public colleges and universities in Idaho, offering a Pass or Fail grade in four key areas of the public's interest: what students are learning; whether the marketplace of ideas is vibrant; how the universities are governed; and what a college education costs.

At this pivotal time for Idaho's taxpayer-supported colleges and universities, our report card finds that while they are run in a generally transparent manner, they have real challenges to address in giving students, parents, and taxpayers the most bang for their buck.

### PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN IDAHO

General Education	F
Intellectual Diversity	F
Governance	
Board Structure and Transparency of Operations	P
Board Accomplishments	I
Cost and Effectiveness	F

## GENERAL EDUCATION

Institutions have solid general education requirements in some core subjects. However, large numbers of Idaho students can graduate without a strong base of knowledge in Literature, U.S. Government or History, and Economics.

### GENERAL EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS BY INSTITUTION

Institution	Comp	Lit	Lang	Gov/ Hist	Econ	Math	Sci
Boise State University							
Idaho State University	√		√				√
Lewis-Clark State College	√	√				√	√
University of Idaho			√		√		√
	F	F	F	F	F	F	P

**OVERALL GRADE: F**

## INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

Despite well-advertised commitments to academic freedom and free expression, speech codes, recent freedom of expression controversies, and survey results suggest that the intellectual atmosphere on Idaho's campuses is less than ideal.

### KEY INDICATORS OF INTELLECTUAL DIVERSITY

Offering Different Perspectives, Competing Ideas, and Alternative Claims of Truth	F
Teaching Students to Think Critically	F
Providing a Safe Learning Environment for Students	P
Ensuring Professional Responsibility in the Classroom	F

**OVERALL GRADE: F**

## GOVERNANCE

### Board Structure and Transparency of Operations

The Idaho State Board of Education is well structured to do its work and is generally transparent in its operations.

### BOARD STRUCTURE AND TRANSPARENCY OF OPERATIONS

Names and contact information of board members publicly available and easily accessible	F
Board meets frequently	P
Board members attend regularly	P
Effective board size	P
Periodic review of bylaws and/or policies	P
Pre-service training and/or professional development	P
Transparency of board activities and actions	I
Functioning committee structure	P
Executive Committees	P
Involvement in presidential search committees	F
Renewal of presidential contracts based on regular evaluation	P
Development of a long-range plan	P

**OVERALL GRADE: P**

### Board Accomplishments

The trustees display an active interest in assessment and a willingness thoughtfully to disagree. However, much work remains to be done to ensure quality and affordability.

### BOARD ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Actions to improve academic quality	F
Actions to assess student learning	P
Actions to control costs and increase efficiency	I
Avoiding the rubber stamp	P

**OVERALL GRADE: I**