

## Making CORE 24 Work For All Students: Building Policy Flexibility

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**GROUP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Worksheet 6: Middle School Student Accountability.** Middle school preparation plays a role in high school performance. Idaho's State Board of Education has forwarded a recommendation to the legislature that will be considered in the 2010 session. Idaho is recommending that middle schools be required to implement a credit system no later than 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will be required to attain a minimum of 80 percent of credits. Students will not be allowed to lose a full year of credit in one area (i.e. a student would not be able to fail a full year of math) and automatically move on to the next grade level. Students not meeting (or in jeopardy of not meeting) credit requirements will be given an opportunity to recover credits or complete an alternate mechanism (e.g., end-of-course assessment, achievement tests) in order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade level. Districts can establish attendance policies that can be factored into the attainment of credit.

We will explore this approach more thoroughly at the February 5 meeting of the ITF, which will focus on the role of middle schools in helping students meet high school graduation requirements. A staff member from the Idaho Department of Education will call in to help us understand Idaho's approach and answer your questions. In preparation for that conversation:

What would be the advantages and disadvantages of such a policy in Washington?

Advantages	Disadvantages

What questions would you like to ask of the Idaho staff member about this new policy?