

2025 ISBA Resolutions

*Resolutions representing the aims and purposes of the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) legislative and otherwise, shall be considered one of the most important functions of the Annual Convention. Resolutions adopted at the Annual Convention automatically remain valid policy of the ISBA for a period of two years unless otherwise acted upon.
(ISBA Bylaws, Article X)*

No.*	Resolution	Submitted by Resolutions will list all districts or schools that have sponsored the resolution.
1	Local Control for School Safety	Marsing, Melba, Fruitland
2	Recess Time and Instructional Hours	Bonnevillle
3	Funding Safe and Secure Schools	Caldwell
4	Inviting State and Local Leaders to Support Efforts to Improve Early Learning	Caldwell
5	Restoration of Lottery Funds for School Maintenance	Twin Falls
6	Expanding Terms for Supplemental Levies	Coeur d'Alene, Boundary County
7	Expanding Spousal Hiring Exceptions for Small Districts	Midvale
8	Opposition to Public Funds Funding Private School Tuition	Boise
9	Employment of Board Member Spouses	Pocatello
10	Latitude for CTE Personnel Funding	Pocatello
11	Needs-Based Grant Fund for School Facilities	West Bonner
12	Local Option Sales Tax to Fund Schools	West Bonner
13	Amending School Age for Flexibility**	Teton
14	America 250	*** <i>Withdrawn, see below</i>
15	Funding for Special Education	Cassia
16	Math and Science Funding to Small Schools	Ririe
17	Swapping CIP for Strategic Plan	Butte County
18	Funding Protection for School Districts	Lewiston

*Resolutions were numbered pursuant to the order in which they were received.

**Indicates the resolution was previously an approved ISBA Resolution that expired.

****Resolution No. 14 was withdrawn by the sponsors as legislative action has already been taken. ISBA is excited to participate in the America 250 Celebration and will roll out a plan for ISBA Members to participate in 2025 & 2026.*

The ISBA Executive Board adopted the following guiding principles for ISBA's advocacy work in 2025:

1. ISBA supports legislation, policies, and initiatives that prepare young children for success in the K-12 education system and in life.
2. ISBA supports legislation that provides for local governance and decision making.
3. ISBA believes the state should provide school districts and charter schools with full funding of current and future funding formulas.
4. ISBA opposes unfunded mandates and will continue to advocate for funding for currently existing mandates.
5. ISBA supports legislation that allows school districts and charter schools to provide competitive compensation for all school employees in order to attract and retain quality staff.
6. ISBA is committed to supporting legislation that creates safe and inclusive environments for all students and staff, without regard to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, gender, ability, sexual orientation, national origin, immigration status, or native tongue.
7. ISBA opposes any legislation that violates federal laws or the state constitution.
8. When applicable and practical, ISBA will interpret approved resolutions to be applied to equally benefit school districts and charter schools.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 1 (PROPOSED)

LOCAL CONTROL FOR SCHOOL SAFETY

WHEREAS, ensuring the safety and well-being of students, teachers, and staff within educational institutions is of paramount importance to local communities; and

WHEREAS, school and charter boards are statutorily required to protect the health and safety of the students and for developing a school safety plan for each school in cooperation with local emergency first responders; and

WHEREAS, local school and charter boards can include parents, teachers, administrators, and community members that may have valuable insights and perspectives essential for crafting effective safety policies; and

WHEREAS, empowering local control over school safety initiatives fosters accountability, responsiveness, and flexibility in addressing evolving safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, acknowledging that one-size-fits-all solutions may not adequately address the unique challenges faced by individual schools and communities; and

WHEREAS, collaborative efforts between local authorities, educational institutions, law enforcement agencies, and relevant community organizations are instrumental in devising comprehensive safety strategies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association hereby commits to prioritizing and facilitating local control in the development, implementation, and enforcement of school safety protocols, including decisions to authorize staff to carry firearms or other weapons;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association shall advocate for increased flexibility from state and federal authorities in matters pertaining to school safety, recognizing the unique needs and circumstances of the local community.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this resolution is to affirm and promote the importance of local control in addressing school safety concerns within our community by empowering local school and charter boards, to play an active role in the development and implementation of school safety measures. Ultimately, this resolution serves as a declaration of our commitment to prioritizing the safety and well-being of our students, teachers, and staff. By embracing local control and collaboration, we can build safer schools and stronger communities.

**Submitted by Marsing School District No. 363
Melba School District No. 136
Fruitland School District No. 373**

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Brett Plummer, Region 7, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 2 (PROPOSED)

RECESS TIME & INSTRUCTIONAL HOURS

WHEREAS, recess time provides essential physical activity time for students in elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, physical activity has shown to be an essential factor in student learning, including the following findings from the National Institute of Health:

- Increasing physical activity and physical fitness may improve academic performance and time in the school day dedicated to recess, physical education class, and physical activity in the classroom may also facilitate academic performance.
- Mathematics and reading are the academic topics that are most influenced by physical activity.
- Executive function and brain health . . . are enhanced by physical activity and higher aerobic fitness.
- Single sessions of and long-term participation in physical activity improve cognitive performance and brain health. Children who participate in vigorous- or moderate-intensity physical activity benefit the most.
- Given the importance of time on task to learning, students should be provided with frequent physical activity breaks that are developmentally appropriate; and

WHEREAS, recess time is an essential physical activity for kindergarten students as well as other elementary grade levels; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code §33-512(1)(c) prohibits recess time from being included as instructional time.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature to amend Idaho Code §33-512 to allow recess time to be counted as instructional time.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This resolution directs the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) to work with the Legislature to amend existing statute to allow school districts more flexibility in reporting instructional hours to include recess periods, which provide essential physical activity for students, as learning time.

Submitted by Bonneville Joint School District No. 93

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: NO RECOMMENDATION

Lon Harrington, Region 5, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 3 (PROPOSED)

FUNDING SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the safety and security of students, educators, and school staff are of paramount importance to ensure a conducive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, recent events have highlighted the vulnerability of educational institutions to various forms of threats and violence; and

WHEREAS, the well-being of our children is fundamental to the future prosperity and stability of our communities and nation; and

WHEREAS, effective measures to enhance school safety include but are not limited to: hiring trained security personnel, implementing advanced security systems, providing mental health resources, and conducting regular safety drills; and

WHEREAS, many schools lack the necessary funding to implement comprehensive safety and security measures; and

WHEREAS, investing in school safety can prevent tragedies, reduce anxiety among students and staff, and foster a positive educational atmosphere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature, State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Education, and other education stakeholders to prioritize and allocate adequate funding for the enhancement of safety and security in schools and urges collaboration between federal, state, and local governments to ensure that all schools, regardless of their financial status, have the resources necessary to protect their students and staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this funding should support a wide range of initiatives, including but not limited to:

1. Security Personnel: Hiring and training of school resource officers and security staff.
2. Security Infrastructure: Installation and maintenance of surveillance cameras, secure entry points, alarm systems, and other physical security measures.
3. Mental Health Resources: Provision of counselors, psychologists, and other mental health professionals to address the emotional and psychological needs of students.
4. Emergency Preparedness: Development and implementation of emergency response plans, including regular drills and training for staff and students.
5. Community Engagement: Programs to involve parents, community members, and local law enforcement in school safety efforts.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

School Board Members are statutorily responsible for the safety of the students and staff in each of their school districts and charter schools, and school safety is a general concern of Idaho citizens. The needs of each school district differ and there is not an adequate funding appropriation for this purpose. Districts do receive Safe & Drug Free funding from the sale of tobacco products and lottery winnings. However, *“Funding for Safe and Drug Free Schools is generated through taxes on tobacco products and lottery winnings. As such the revenue is dependent upon sales and winnings and can be difficult to estimate. Given this variability, applications will be reviewed, approved and funded as they are received and as revenue is available. If revenue is not available to fund approved applications, payments will be made as soon as the revenue is sufficient”* (<https://apps2.sde.idaho.gov/SDFS/Home/Home>). For this reason, Safe & Drug Free funding is an unreliable funding source, which forces districts to seek voter-approved tax levies or strain existing school budgets. This disparity and variability creates inequity throughout the state. This resolution would direct the ISBA to work with key partners to establish adequate funding that public schools can rely on each year in order to address their individual needs for school safety and security.

Submitted by Caldwell School District No. 132

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Jason Sevy, Vice President, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 4 (PROPOSED)

INVITING STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS TO SUPPORT DISTRICT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EARLY LEARNING

WHEREAS, early childhood education is crucial for the academic, social, and emotional development of children; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that high-quality early learning programs can lead to better educational outcomes, including higher graduation rates and improved reading and math skills; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is one of the few states that does not currently invest in early childhood education options for families with children aged 3 to 5 ([Idaho's Children Still Lack Access to State-Funded Preschool](#)); and

WHEREAS, An April 2024 national report ([NIEER State of Preschool Yearbook 2023](#)) that Idaho is one of six states that still lack a state-funded preschool program; and

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of Idaho children enter kindergarten without the necessary skills to succeed, with 53% demonstrating below grade-level reading skills; in the Caldwell School District 80% of children entering kindergarten demonstrate below grade-level reading skills; and

WHEREAS, local school districts and charter schools strive to prepare all children for kindergarten but face limitations due to current funding restrictions; and

WHEREAS, 64% of three and four-year-olds in Idaho are currently not enrolled in an early childhood education program, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation ([2024 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2024 State Trends in Child Well-Being](#)) data on overall child well-being in Idaho, highlighting a significant need for increased access to such programs; and

WHEREAS, community support and collaboration among state and local leaders, educators, and families are essential for the successful implementation and sustainability of early learning initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association calls upon state and local leaders, including the Governor, State Legislature, State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Education, and local government officials to prioritize and support early learning initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state and local leaders are encouraged to work collaboratively with school districts and charter schools to provide the necessary resources and flexibility to implement high-quality early learning programs that meet the needs of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this support includes advocating for policy changes, securing funding, and promoting awareness of the importance of early childhood education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association is committed to partnering with state and local leaders, educators, families, and community organizations to ensure all Idaho children have access to the early learning opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this resolution is to invite and encourage state and local leaders to prioritize and support efforts to improve early learning in Idaho. By working together, we can provide school districts and charter schools with the resources and flexibility needed to ensure that all children are prepared for kindergarten and beyond. This resolution seeks to foster collaboration and commitment among all stakeholders to address the critical need for early childhood education in our state.

Submitted by Caldwell School District No. 132

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Leslie Baker, Region 9, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 5 (PROPOSED)

RESTORATION OF LOTTERY FUNDS FOR SCHOOL MAINTENANCE

WHEREAS, The 2024 passage of HB 521 provides funds to school districts for capital projects; and

WHEREAS, the portion of Idaho Code directing Lottery Funds to the school district building account and bond levy equalization was amended, transferring these funds to the new school districts facilities fund; and

WHEREAS, funds from this account cannot be used for general maintenance as they were prior to the change in distribution of these funds; and

WHEREAS, Districts have lost an important revenue stream used for general maintenance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature to amend Idaho Code §67-7434 to return Lottery Funds to the school district building account.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This resolution directs the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) to work with the legislature to re-establish necessary routine and ongoing maintenance for school facilities with the Idaho Lottery or other fund source. The approximate funding gap lost in HB 521 for school districts and charter schools is \$29 million.

Submitted by Twin Falls School District No. 411

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Teresa Rae, Region 1, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 6 (PROPOSED)

MODIFICATION TO IDAHO CODE 33-802(3) TO INCREASE THE TERM OF SUPPLEMENTAL MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION LEVIES FROM A MAXIMUM OF 2 YEARS TO A TERM NOT TO EXCEED 6 YEARS

WHEREAS, Section 33-802(3), Idaho Code, allows for a school district to propose a Supplemental Maintenance and Operation Levy to be submitted to the electors of the district; and

WHEREAS, section 33-802(3), Idaho Code, specifically states “for a period not to exceed (2) two years.”; and

WHEREAS, section 33-802(5), Idaho Code, does allow a provision under the specified criteria where a board “may submit the question for an **indefinite term** supplemental levy.”; and

WHEREAS, state funding of public schools is inadequate and nearly all districts rely on a Supplemental Maintenance and Operation Levy to supplement funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho State Department of Education, Idaho State Board of Education, and the Idaho Legislature to amend Idaho Code Section 33-802(3) Supplemental Maintenance and Operation levies as follows:

(3) Supplemental Maintenance and Operation Levies. No levy in excess of the levy permitted by this section shall be made by a noncharter district unless such a supplemental levy in a specified amount and for a specified time, from one (1) year to a maximum of six (6) years, be first authorized through an election held subject to the provisions of section 34-106, Idaho Code, and pursuant to title 34, Idaho Code, and approved by a majority of the district electors voting in such election. A levy approved pursuant to this subsection may be reduced by a majority vote of the board of trustees in the second year.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Revising Idaho Code 33-802(3) to allow Supplemental Maintenance and Operation Levies to be approved by voters for a period of up to 6 years would allow school boards to propose a reasonable levy term that would work in their community without the fear of

a “permanent” levy as the only other option. The current two-year maximum term leaves districts spending an enormous amount of time and money to renew Supplemental Maintenance and Operation levies every other year. Providing longer options for the term will allow districts to operate with greater financial stability for a longer period of time and create stability among staff to focus on their primary purpose of education, while still setting a limit for boards and electors to reassess.

**Submitted by Coeur d’Alene School District No. 271
Boundary County School District No. 101**

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Jason Knopp, Region 3, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 7 (PROPOSED)

SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICT TRUSTEE SPOUSAL EMPLOYMENT

WHEREAS, the recruitment and retention of qualified school personnel is essential to maintaining a well-functioning school district; and

WHEREAS, small school districts regularly have problems filling staff vacancies; and

WHEREAS, many school trustee's spouses have multiple certifications, qualifications, and experiences matching what small school districts may need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature to amend Idaho Code 33-507 (3) to allow small school districts, with an enrollment no greater than 250 students, to hire spouses of school board members through their normal hiring process and retain them without re-opening the position each year. The trustee(s) in question would abstain from being involved in any part of the hiring, employment, or compensation process. Spouse may only be employed in a non-administrative position.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The intent of the resolution is to develop a process by which small school districts, sub-250 student enrollment, could employ the spouse of one of their trustee members with said trustee member remaining on the school board as sometimes it is quite difficult in a small community to fill both board and staff vacancies with the current rules in place. This provision would not apply to public charter schools, as their boards are not elected.

Submitted by the Midvale School District No. 433

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Christy Crocco, Region 8, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 8 (PROPOSED)

IN OPPOSITION TO DIVERTING PUBLIC DOLLARS TO PRIVATE OR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS INCLUDING VOUCHERS, THE GRANTING OF TAX CREDITS FOR SCHOLARSHIP DONORS, OR AMENDING ARTICLE IX, §5 TO ALLOW PUBLIC FUNDS TO BE USED FOR PRIVATE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Constitution provides for “the free and thorough public education for children”; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho State Constitution, Article IX, §5, Idaho Code ensures the separation of church and state in Idaho by prohibiting the flow of public money to private or religious institutions for education; and

WHEREAS, public school districts and charter schools receiving public funds from the legislature are required to meet state accounting standards, use state-approved curriculum standards, and submit student achievement reports to receive those funds; and

WHEREAS, an additional layer of state infrastructure would have to be created to manage the public money distributed to either individual families or to private or religious institutions; and

WHEREAS, Idaho’s students have increasing access to a wide variety of school choice options in the state of Idaho, and parents are free to choose educational services through Idaho’s public education system or educational options in the private sector; and

WHEREAS, most private schools are in large urban areas. The majority of the statewide taxpayer funds will go to supporting private school students in those large urban areas, and rural Idahoans will see a lack of investment in their children's education in order to subsidize urban private schools; and

WHEREAS, in other areas of the country that have adopted voucher programs, student achievement has suffered, especially among those children receiving vouchers; and

WHEREAS, in other areas of the country that have adopted voucher programs, the vouchers have overwhelmingly gone to students who were already in private school, therefore not increasing choice but establishing a third system of publicly funded schools without any accountability or transparency to the taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, public schools act as community centers, especially in rural areas, and the loss of these schools will leave a void in those communities with the funding of homeschooling; and

WHEREAS, in other areas of the country that have adopted voucher programs, the cost of the program has greatly expanded putting a financial strain on the taxpayers of those

states and decreasing funding available to public schools.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association strongly oppose any effort to divert public dollars to private or parochial schools, grant tax credits for tuition, costs, or scholarship donations, or amend the Constitution of the State of Idaho, Article IX, §5, Idaho Code, also known as the Blaine Amendment, to allow public dollars to finance private or parochial education in the K-12 education system of the State of Idaho.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

School choice is an integral part of public education in the state of Idaho. Public school choice includes charter, magnet, at-risk alternative, virtual, and traditional schools where dual language, classical, harbor, international, Montessori, Career Technical, STEM, and STEAM programs, etc. are offered. These programs are an integral part of what public education already offers across Idaho, funded by state tax dollars.

The Heritage Foundation ranks Idaho's current (2023) investment in our children's public schools as the lowest in the country. Reducing the general fund by offering a tax credit for tuition, costs, and donations to scholarship programs or diverting already scarce resources to provide vouchers to private schools will further erode funding to current public schools all across Idaho. If our state constitution is changed, Idaho's investment in public education will become even smaller as our taxes will be siphoned off to unaccountable private and parochial schools.

States that have implemented vouchers have had detrimental effects with little to no positive impact. In Indiana, vouchers have led to a decrease in public school funds and an increase in taxes. In Arizona, the original cost estimate for their program was \$65 million. The cost to the state's taxpayers for vouchers has increased to \$723.5 million (FY24) in just two years since implementation. That amount exceeds the total of all education bonds and levies in Idaho.

In Arizona, 80% of voucher recipients were already attending private schools prior to the adoption of the voucher program, meaning an increase in costs to the taxpayers by adding new students to the state budget. On top of that, only 5% of voucher recipients are from rural or low-income areas.

Private schools are also not accountable to the state, and as recently proposed, private/parochial schools/parents would have no accountability for the tax dollars that have been given. There would be nothing to ensure the students in the private schools are receiving a quality education in exchange for tax dollars. Private schools rarely accept or support special education students leaving those students without equitable access to a voucher program. There would also be no way to prevent a private school from increasing their tuition costs by the exact amount of the state voucher ensuring that no new students could afford to attend the school, but allowing the private school to greatly increase their revenue at the expense of the taxpayers. This has the opposite effect of creating a level playing field for a competitive education system. It puts public

schools at a great disadvantage as they operate within the strict requirements of the state and with reduced funding.

A voucher, tax credit, or scholarship program would irreparably harm our existing system of public school districts and charters, especially in rural Idaho, and would likely harm overall student achievement. For the reasons outlined above, we oppose amending the Idaho State Constitution, Article IX, §5. Idaho already has substantial choice in its public school system.

Submitted by Boise School District No. 1

Recommendation of the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Brian Pyper, President-Elect, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 9 (PROPOSED)

EMPLOYMENT OF BOARD MEMBER SPOUSES

WHEREAS, section 33-507, Idaho Code provides for the limited allowance of Idaho public schools to employ the spouse of a governing board member to situations where the school had a prior fall student enrollment population of 1,200 and the employment of such spouse may only be pursuant to a Category 1 standard teacher contract, for a single period of time, only in circumstances where certain pre-requisites are met; and

WHEREAS, section 33-507, Idaho Code, is confusing as to whether or not such statute allows for an Idaho public school to employ the spouse of a board member in a classified position at the district due to the clearly stated contractual employment limitation; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's public schools seek to recruit and retain the best trained and qualified personnel to work with student populations; and

WHEREAS, there is a shortage of qualified applicants for teaching and classified positions at Idaho public schools including, but not limited to, special education teachers, math and science teachers, foreign language teachers, career technical educators, paraprofessional educators working with special education students, skilled maintenance personnel, and bus drivers; and

WHEREAS, Idaho public schools are the only public entity within the state of Idaho for which employment of a spouse of a governing board member is statutorily prohibited;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association support changes to section 33-507, Idaho Code, to provide greater latitude and clarity to provide for the employment of spouses of governing board members in all classified and non-administrative certificated positions in Idaho public schools; and

FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED, that when such certificated non-administrative personnel are employed, that such individuals be provided credit for all consecutive years of service to the same public school district in the determination of contract status pursuant to sections 33-514 and 33- 515, Idaho Code, rather than being solely limited to a Category 1 Standard Contract status.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Idaho's public school districts are the only public entity within the state of Idaho for which the legislature has limited employment of spouses of governing board members. This has limited the individuals which can be hired in positions of teaching and classified positions, for which Idaho public school districts have had difficulty in recruitment and retention in the past decade. This limitation is unnecessary and, since the amendment of section 33-507, Idaho Code, first allowing for limited employment of spouses of governing board members by Idaho public schools, there have been no improprieties

alleged in association with such employment. Further, this resolution specifically excludes the employment of certificated administrative personnel, which prevents any concern for legislators relating to the possibility of inappropriate influence. This resolution calls for changes to aid in addressing personnel limitations and recognizes the need for highly skilled and willing personnel resources, critical for the educational advancement of Idaho's public school students.

Submitted by Pocatello Chubbuck School District No. 25

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO NOT PASS

Lon Harrington, Region 5, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 10 (PROPOSED)

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) PERSONNEL FUNDING LATITUDE

WHEREAS, during the 2024 Idaho Legislative session, through House Bill 521, the Idaho Legislature made historic investments associated with the funding for Idaho public school facilities, including provisions for Idaho's public schools to invest in career technical education facilities and programs; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's public-school students are demonstrating an increased interest in participating in career technical education pathways during their high school educational careers, placing them into a position to have trade skills for employment upon high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, barriers exist for Idaho public schools in the recruitment and retention of career technical educators as many such individuals have to leave high paying careers in order to assume a position as a career technical educator in Idaho public schools, significantly limiting the number of qualified professional educators available and interested in such career opportunities as well as resulting in limitations in the programs that can be offered to students by Idaho public schools; and

WHEREAS, in order for Idaho public schools to provide for the career technical educational opportunities desired by its students and necessary for future Idaho workforce needs, additional funding options and latitude in the application of existing statutory provisions and revenue flows is necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association support changes leading to greater latitude and flexibility for Idaho public schools to receive and provide compensation for career technical education personnel. This could be addressed with additional revenues for hiring and retaining such hard to fill personnel positions and/or changes to the Idaho Code provisions allowing for greater latitude in CTE funding sources, and/or directive of the Idaho Legislature for the Office of Performance Evaluation to study all available options for additional funding resources and/or flexibility for Idaho public schools to utilize state and/or federal career technical education funding.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Idaho's students have demonstrated increased interest in CTE pathways for future career options, necessitating Idaho's public schools to provide for educational activities supporting these interests from a very limited pool of qualified and available educators who specialize in CTE pathways.

Submitted by Pocatello Chubbuck School District No. 25

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Anne Ritter, Region 9, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 11 (PROPOSED)

REPLACING A REVOLVING LOAN GRANT FUND FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES WITH A NEEDS-BASED GRANT

WHEREAS, In 2024, the Idaho Legislature created a unique bonding program for school districts to receive either a 10-year lump sum or annualized appropriation for facility improvements;

WHEREAS, because it was distributed on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) many small, rural school districts around the State of Idaho will continue to struggle to raise funding to address critical capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, funds from the Idaho State Lottery Fund only provided a small percentage of facilities funding needed to address mandated expenditure and are now distributed through property tax relief, removing the only routine maintenance dollars for school districts; and

WHEREAS, the majority of school districts in the state already run supplemental levies to pay for basic school district operations and unfunded mandates, making it difficult to simultaneously run a facilities levy, not to mention a passage of a bond requires 2/3 majority; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code [33-1017](#) (School Safety and Health Revolving Loan and Grant Fund) was a grant program that became law in 2000 and the original intent allowed a district to apply for funding to repair facilities if they had exhausted their levy capacity and declared a financial emergency, and does not appear to receive any appropriation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho State Legislature to revise and expand what used to be known as the “School Safety and Health Revolving Loan and Grant Fund” that would distribute moneys to school districts and charter schools based on needs. The purpose could be for financing of construction, remodel, and maintenance of school facilities. The application could include a detailed plan for the facility project, details concerning the facilities’ current condition, projected costs related to the project, the estimated bond request including previous requests, and a statement of financial condition. The fund could gain up to \$25 million in appropriate, and preference shall be given to school districts who receive less than \$5 million in a 10-year period.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Despite significant investments from the Idaho State Legislature, many school districts will struggle to repair or replace their aging school buildings. Replacing this outdated revolving loan grant fund with one that distributes funds based on need, and prioritizes small, rural school districts, is a more equitable and reasonable way to ensure rural schools can provide safe and adequate facilities for Idaho students.

Submitted by West Bonner School District No. 83

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Karen Pyron, Region 7, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 12 (PROPOSED)

CREATE AUTHORITY FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CHOOSE A LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX TO FUND SCHOOLS IN LIEU OF PROPERTY TAX LEVIES

WHEREAS, public education is a fundamental pillar of our society and is essential for the development of our children and the future of our community; and

WHEREAS, the funding of public schools is a priority that requires adequate and stable financial support to ensure high-quality education for all students; and

WHEREAS, state funding for public schools has been insufficient to meet the growing needs and challenges faced by our educational institutions, and property taxpayers are seeking relief; and

WHEREAS, local communities should have the flexibility to address their unique educational needs and priorities by generating additional revenue through local means; and

WHEREAS, a local option sales tax provides a mechanism for school districts to raise funds directly from their communities, ensuring that the benefits of the tax are retained within the local school system; and

WHEREAS, the imposition of a local option tax would be subject to voter approval, ensuring that taxpayers have a direct say in whether they wish to increase funding for their local public schools; and

WHEREAS, increased funding through a local option tax can support critical areas such as teacher salaries, school facilities, educational programs, extracurricular activities, and student support services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association drafts and supports legislation that authorizes school districts within its jurisdiction to propose and implement a local option tax, subject to voter approval, to fund their local public schools.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of the local option tax shall be to generate additional revenue to supplement state and federal funding for public education, thereby enhancing the quality of education provided to students within the school district. The imposition of a local option tax shall require approval by a majority vote of the electorate within the school district, and school districts that implement a local option tax shall ensure transparency and accountability in the use of the funds. The local option tax shall be implemented for a specified duration, as determined by the school district and approved by the voters. At the end of this period, the tax shall be subject to review and re-

approval by the electorate to ensure continued support and effectiveness.

Submitted by West Bonner County School District No. 83
Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: NO RECOMMENDATION

Brett Plummer, Region 7, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 13 (PROPOSED)

AMENDING IDAHO SCHOOL AGE STATUTE TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOL PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, Idaho is one of six states that does not invest in early childhood education options for families with children 3 to 5 years old; and

WHEREAS, 59% of Idaho’s children enter kindergarten with below grade level reading skills; and

WHEREAS, school districts and charter schools currently do not have the flexibility to use state funding to support and ensure that all children entering kindergarten are academically, socially, and emotionally ready to learn; and

WHEREAS, 66% of three and four-year-olds in Idaho are currently not enrolled in an early childhood education program, according to an Annie E. Casey Foundation study on overall child well-being in Idaho.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the State Board of Education, State Department of Education, and the Idaho Legislature to revise Section 33-201 and Section 33-208, Idaho Code, thereby providing school districts and charter schools with the flexibility to use state dollars to support school readiness with the understanding that such programs, like kindergarten, will not be compulsory or mandated, allowing school districts and charter schools to address the needs of their local students.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Currently Section 33-201, Idaho Code, prevents school districts and charter schools from using state dollars to support kindergarten preparedness programs for four-year-olds. By amending the current age, it will allow flexibility for local districts and charter schools to use state dollars as they see appropriate in supporting children entering kindergarten. There are no dollars attached to changing the code. It simply allows school districts and charter schools more choice in using the funding they receive in a manner that best fits their local community. This resolution would not amend the age threshold for a child enrolling in kindergarten or first grade. Nor would it be compulsory for local districts or charters to establish such programs.

Submitted by Teton School District No. 401

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Kristin Galbraith, Region 6, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 15 (PROPOSED)

ADDRESSING FUNDING SHORTFALLS FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION STUDENTS AND PROMOTING INCREASED FUNDING THROUGH STATE DISCRETIONARY LINE-ITEM DISTRIBUTION

WHEREAS, The current funding formula for public education in Idaho does not adequately address the financial needs of special education students, as well as other student subpopulations such as those requiring literacy interventions, at-risk students, and low-income students; and

WHEREAS, The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that school districts provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to students with disabilities, ensuring they receive special education and related services designed to meet their unique needs and prepare them for further education, employment, and independent living; and

WHEREAS, Federal funding provided under IDEA covers only a portion of the costs associated with providing special education services, placing a significant financial burden on local school districts to cover the remaining costs; and

WHEREAS, Special education populations in districts and public charter schools range from 0-30%, with a statewide average child-count of approximately 12%. The current special education funding calculation through state salary-based apportionment found in 33-1002, Idaho Code and driven by Idaho Administrative Rule found in 08.02.01.400 is not based on actual student counts. Instead, it shifts an arbitrary student enrollment percentage of 5.5% for secondary student enrollment and 6% for elementary student enrollment to the Exceptional Child category of the divisor table defined in I.C. 33-1002, which is well below the actual number of special education students, contributing to an annual statewide funding deficit of nearly \$60 million. Many LEA's (local education agencies) do not receive adequate funding based on their student demographics, while a small number of LEAs actually receive funding for students they do not have; and

WHEREAS, The state of Idaho has a responsibility to ensure equitable funding for all students, including those with disabilities, by matching federal funding and providing additional resources to meet the requirements set forth by IDEA; and

WHEREAS, Adequate funding for special education and other essential programs is crucial for addressing educational disparities and promoting academic success for all students, particularly those from vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, the current discretionary funding model does not sufficiently account for the higher costs associated with educating students with disabilities, students requiring literacy support, at-risk students, and low-income students;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Idaho School Boards Association urges the Idaho State Legislature to revise the state's funding formula to increase allocations through the state discretionary line-item distribution specifically for full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment of student subpopulations, including special education, literacy, at-risk, and low-income students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the revised funding formula should ensure that school districts receive adequate financial support to meet the requirements of IDEA and other federal mandates, thereby reducing the financial burden on local districts and promoting equity in educational opportunities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Idaho State Legislature should commit to regularly reviewing and adjusting the funding formula to reflect the actual costs of providing high-quality education to all student populations, ensuring that funding keeps pace with inflation and changing educational needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association supports the inclusion of specific provisions in the state budget to increase discretionary funding for school districts, emphasizing the importance of targeted financial support for special education, literacy programs, at-risk students, and low-income students to foster a more inclusive and effective educational environment for all.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This resolution reflects the commitment of the Cassia Joint School District Trustees to advocate for fair and adequate funding that addresses the diverse needs of all students, ensuring compliance with federal mandates and promoting educational equity across the state of Idaho.

Submitted by Cassia School District No. 151

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Elli Getchius, Region 1, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 16 (PROPOSED)

PROVIDING ADDITIONAL MATH AND SCIENCE FUNDING TO SMALL SCHOOLS TO HIRE ADDITIONAL TEACHERS

WHEREAS, I.C 33-1021 sets aside money to hire additional high school math and science teachers or to defray the costs associated with providing math and science courses to high school students; and

WHEREAS, schools with an enrollment of 99 or less, receive the equivalent of one and one-quarter (1.25) of a classified staff position; and

WHEREAS, schools with an enrollment of 100 to 159, receive the equivalent of one-ninth (1/9) of a classified staff position; and

WHEREAS, schools with an enrollment of 160 to 319, receive the equivalent of two sevenths (2/7) of a classified staff position; and

WHEREAS, schools with an enrollment of 320 to 639, receive the equivalent of one (1.0) instructional staff position, based on the statewide average funding per position and

WHEREAS, schools with an enrollment of 640 or more, receive the equivalent of one (1.0) instructional staff position, based on the statewide average funding per position, and three-quarters (0.75) of a classified staff position;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association shall draft legislation to amend I.C 33-1021 so that schools with an enrollment of 99 or less, receive the equivalent of one-quarter (.25) instructional staff positions, schools with an enrollment of 100 to 159 receive the equivalent of one half (.50) instructional staff positions, and schools with an enrollment of 160 to 319, receive the equivalent of three-quarters (.75) instructional staff positions based on the statewide average funding per position.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Idaho Code 33-1021 allocates funds for schools to hire additional high school math and science teachers or cover related costs. However, funding a fraction of a classified position (1/9 or 2/7) is insufficient for hiring additional teachers or covering course expenses. Idaho Code 33-1021 should be amended to provide additional funding to small schools.

Submitted by Ririe School District No. 252

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Matt Frye, Region 8, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 17 (PROPOSED)

SWAPPING THE CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan) FOR THE STRATEGIC PLAN

WHEREAS, Idaho school boards have an increasing and evolving expectation of leading efforts to improve student outcomes schoolwide; and

WHEREAS, school boards must be able to design, in partnership with school district leadership, a document that is all-inclusive in aiding them in knowing, understanding, and supporting the key elements required to improve student outcomes; and

WHEREAS, such key elements must focus on data-driven schoolwide and district-wide goals to guide efforts in the improvement of student performance and outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the CIP plan is limited in its scope and is not a comprehensive, guiding document that school boards can universally trust and understand; and

WHEREAS, it is not designed to assist them in guiding both short term and long-term district-wide efforts; and

WHEREAS, the CIP is a duplicative effort that creates an unnecessary burden on administration and school boards, including time, when the Strategic Plan can be modified to more effectively meet the intent of long-term comprehensive school improvement planning; and

WHEREAS, the CIP plan is completed by teachers and administrators and approved by the Board, the Strategic Plan is stakeholder developed and driven by the Board. It is the lynch-pin that creates policies and practices on student learning while supporting the educational system; and

WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan process is more effective in guiding local education agency goals, and goals of the Idaho Department of Education, State Board of Education, and legislative actions that impact school improvement planning and desired results.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association lead efforts to dissolve the CIP in favor of the Strategic Plan (while maintaining accountability measures of the CIP) to focus on improving the student performance of the district.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

This resolution directs the Idaho School Boards Association to actively pursue avenues to eliminate the CIP (Continuous Improvement Plan) as a required document of the State Board of Education in favor of replacing such requirement with the existing and more long-term and inclusive strategic plan. It is understood that current requirements of the strategic plan may need to be modified to be more inclusive of student performance data and related requirements that will better equip school boards and influence their support of student learning.

Submitted by the Butte County School District No. 111

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Lori Frasure, Region 3, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 18 (PROPOSED)

RESOLUTION TO AMEND IDAHO CODE 33-1003 REGARDING SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT UNITS

WHEREAS, Idaho Code 33-1003 currently includes the sentence: "After applying the provisions of this subsection, the state department of education shall calculate the percentage of additional statewide support units to total statewide support units and shall then reduce each school district's support units by this uniform percentage"; and

WHEREAS, this provision imposes a uniform reduction in support units across all school districts, disregarding the fixed and unavoidable costs the districts must bear, such as salaries, utilities, and essential services, thereby creating financial instability and making it exceedingly difficult for districts to effectively and meet the diverse and evolving educational needs of students; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to ensure that school districts are provided with predictable and stable funding that reflects their actual average daily attendance (ADA) or prior year's funding allowances thereby safeguarding the financial viability of districts to and supporting their capacity to deliver uninterrupted educational services; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) has consistently recognized the detrimental impact of financial cliffs and unpredictable funding on school districts advocating for reforms through resolutions such as Resolution No. 2, 2024 "K-12 Funding Formula Principles"; and

WHEREAS, the removal of the specific sentence from Idaho Code 33-1003 will enable a more equitable and reliable funding mechanism that accounts for fixed costs, thereby supporting the ISBA's commitment to mitigating financial cliffs and ensuring financial stability across all school districts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Idaho School Boards Association strongly advocates for the deletion of the sentence: "After applying the provisions of this subsection, the state department of education shall calculate the percentage of additional statewide support units to total statewide support units and shall then reduce each school district's support units by this uniform percentage" from Idaho Code 33-1003; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Idaho School Boards Association supports the amendment of Idaho Code 33-1003 to add the words: "the greater of the average daily attendance used for the allowance of funding the prior school year or" to ensure a more stable, equitable, and sustainable funding model for all Idaho school districts, aligning with current ISBA resolutions aimed at enhancing financial stability and avoiding detrimental financial cliffs.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Since the funding for schools have been reverted back to Average Daily Attendance, most districts in the state required protection this past fall. In addition, many districts are facing enrollment decreases therefore creating an even greater financial cliff year to year. By introducing this resolution, we aim to advocate for a funding formula that better reflects the actual needs and circumstances of our school districts, promoting financial stability and the ability to provide consistent and high-quality education for all students across Idaho. This resolution aligns with and reinforces the ISBA's previous resolutions addressing financial cliffs and the need for more reliable and predictable school funding.

Submitted by Lewiston Independent School District No. 1

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Raini Hayden, Region 5, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.