

2019 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 5

FULL FUNDING OF KINDERGARTEN

WHEREAS, research shows the increase in the number of full day kindergarten programs has been attributed to various social, economic, and educational factors.

WHEREAS, kindergarten students who participate in full day kindergarten make greater gains in their mathematics and reading achievement when compared to those attending half-day classes; and

WHEREAS, in a statewide survey presented by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, 75 percent of respondents said they would be "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to send their children to public preschool if it were available in their community; and

WHEREAS, as of 2017/2018, 84 of 142 of Idaho's traditional and charter schools offer full day kindergarten to students without funding for a full time teacher; and

WHEREAS, districts and charters that offer full day kindergarten programs must employ 1.0 FTE per kindergarten classroom, while currently only receiving .5 FTE funding for the kindergarten program compared to other elementary grades; and

WHEREAS, whether the current funding formula is amended by the legislature or remains the same, the request would be for kindergarten students to be funded at the same rate as other elementary students.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association research, draft, and submit legislation – or, support legislation - that proposes the State of Idaho fund full day kindergarten the same way it does all other elementary students. This change would allow districts or charters that offer full day kindergarten increased financial stability and decrease the amount of local support districts or charters utilize through supplemental levies or discretionary dollars.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The lack of funding for full day kindergarten puts a hardship on local districts and charters. The funding of kindergarten at the same rate as all other elementary students would allow districts and charters more flexibility in bridging the gaps seen in early childhood literacy. The fiscal impact of this resolution is \$52 million.

Submitted by West Bonner County School District No. 83

Submitted by Genesee Joint School District No. 282

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO NOT PASS

Starr Olsen of the ISBA Executive Board will address the Executive Board's recommendation to the membership at the Business Session of the Annual Convention.

PASSED

AYES 5539

NAYES 2980

TOTAL 8519