



Legislative Representatives



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The ISBA Legislative Representatives (Leg. Rep.) program is a newly developed initiative that offers you the opportunity to advocate for state legislation within your district or charter, as well as at the state level. We encourage each school board to nominate one board member to serve as an ISBA Leg. Rep. The Leg Rep will collaborate directly with the ISBA Government Affairs team to stay informed about legislative developments. While all members will be invited to engage during the session, the goal of the Leg. Rep. is to have one engaged board member share information with the board and their constituents regarding bills, issues, and topics that affect public education in Idaho. The Leg. Rep. also communicates with legislators.

LENGTH OF SERVICE

Each school board can designate the length of time for a member to serve as a Leg. Rep. It is suggested that a member serve no less than two years in order to grow within the role. When the board selects its Leg. Rep. in January, please notify ISBA by calling 208-854-1476 or emailing info@idsba.org.

TIME COMMITMENT

The amount of time needed to effectively serve as a leg. rep. is variable depending on the expectations of the board and the interest of the representative. Based on discussions with legislative representatives in other state school board associations, the estimated time commitment is between 10 – 15 hours/month — less during the off-session.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Review resolutions for the ISBA Business Session with their board prior to the annual convention. It may be appropriate to schedule a special meeting for reviewing proposals to allow sufficient time for discussion of the issues.
- During the session, provide legislative updates periodically at their board meetings. In other states, boards establish a standing legislative representative update on their board meeting agendas during the legislative session.
- Share information from ISBA publications and communications, particularly from ISBA's Advocacy Newsletters Capitol Notes (state issues) & The Hill (federal issues).
- Coordinate their board's efforts to propose new ISBA positions or amendments to existing positions. This discussion can happen throughout the year, knowing proposals are due to ISBA on the 31st of July.
- Represent their board at state-level meetings (e.g., the ISBA Convention, the Day on the Hill, and any area or regional workshops).
- Participate in Leg. Rep. webinars during the session to hear about activities or bills requiring immediate attention from school leaders.
- Maintain contact with legislators throughout the legislative session and communicate with them when legislative issues require it.
- Monitor legislative developments at both the state and federal levels.

BOARD LEVEL

- Prioritize legislative positions
- Represent your board at the Business Session
- Propose new positions or amendments

STATE LEVEL

- Get involved in the legislative session
- Write and deliver testimony
- Build relationships with legislators

FEDERAL LEVEL

- Build relationships with congressional delegation
- Write and send emails

For questions about ISBA's advocacy, contact quinn@idsba.org

Empower and champion school boards to foster student success.