2027 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 2

ESTABLISHING A STATEWIDE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, Idaho's public schools are committed to providing every student with the highest quality educational opportunities possible while exercising responsible stewardship of taxpayer resources;

WHEREAS, school districts and charter schools face increasing demands to improve student achievement while addressing the growing costs of literacy, career and technical education, special education, school safety, technology, transportation, facilities, workforce development, and student wellness;

WHEREAS, many Idaho school districts, including 102 of the state's 116 districts that serve rural communities, lack the administrative capacity, staffing, or specialized expertise necessary to identify, pursue, secure, and manage competitive grants, philanthropic investments, public-private partnerships, and other educational funding opportunities;

WHEREAS, millions of dollars in federal, private foundation, nonprofit, corporate, and charitable funding are available annually to support K-12 education, yet many Idaho school districts are unable to fully compete for these opportunities because they lack the personnel, expertise, and time necessary to identify, prepare, and administer competitive funding applications;

WHEREAS, expanding districts' ability to secure outside educational resources strengthens local control, promotes innovation, expands educational opportunities for students, and maximizes taxpayer investments without requiring additional state appropriations or increasing local property taxes;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association support legislation establishing a statewide Educational Resource Development Program within the Idaho State Department of Education, or another appropriate state educational entity, dedicated to increasing the capacity of Idaho public school districts and charter schools to identify, pursue, secure, administer, and manage competitive grants, philanthropic investments, public-private partnerships, and other educational funding opportunities;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that, subject to legislative appropriation, the Educational Resource Development Program should provide:

- Technical assistance in grant research, proposal development, and grant writing;
- Individualized assistance in identifying funding opportunities that align with a district's educational priorities and strategic goals;
- A centralized, regularly updated database of state, federal, private, nonprofit, corporate, philanthropic, and charitable funding opportunities;
- Professional development and training for district personnel in resource development, grant management, and partnership development;

- Assistance in developing partnerships with businesses, nonprofit organizations, higher education institutions, and charitable foundations;
- Support for collaborative multi-district grant applications, particularly among rural school districts;
- Best practices for grant management, compliance, and reporting; and
- Assistance in developing long-term resource development strategies that strengthen educational opportunities for Idaho students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association advocates for policies that expand Idaho school districts' ability to compete successfully for outside educational resources while preserving local control over how those resources are used to meet the needs of their students and communities.

Statement of Purpose

Every Idaho student deserves access to outstanding educational opportunities regardless of the size or location of their school district. While significant federal, philanthropic, corporate, nonprofit, and other funding opportunities exist to support education, many Idaho school districts, particularly rural and small districts, lack the staff, expertise, or administrative capacity necessary to identify, pursue, and secure these resources.

This resolution supports establishing a statewide educational resource development program to provide school districts with technical assistance, training, and coordination to help them compete successfully for outside educational resources. By strengthening districts' capacity to secure additional educational resources, Idaho can expand opportunities for students, encourage innovation, promote collaboration, maximize the return on taxpayer investments, and preserve local control.

No Idaho student's educational opportunities should be limited simply because their school district lacks the staff, expertise, or capacity to pursue resources that already exist.

Fiscal Note

Any funding necessary to implement this program would be determined by the Idaho Legislature. The program could be established within an existing division of the Idaho State Department of Education or through another existing state educational entity to minimize administrative costs.

Submitted by Council School District No. 13

Buhl School District No. 412

ISBA Executive Board Recommendation: DO PASS

Rich Meyer, Region 1 Vice Chair, will present the Executive Board recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

PASSED
AYES 7881
NAYS 927