

CAPITOL



By Karen Echeverria, Executive Director

It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.

-Confucius

February 4, 2019
Issue 4

FINALLY, THE BILL!

Last week we told you that we were thrilled that we had finally seen two bills related to K12 Public Education get printed. Well, this week, we finally got a copy of **THE** bill, the bill that we have all been anxiously waiting to see – the new Public School Funding Formula bill. We got it Thursday and it is 59 pages long. Quinn and I, as well as our attorneys, are still reviewing the bill.

It is our understating that the House and Senate Education Committees are going to hold a joint hearing next Thursday and they will be taking testimony on the bill. We will definitely be ready to testify on the bill. In the meantime, we would encourage you, or someone on your staff, to review the bill. Because of its length and the technicality of the bill, it will take some time to plow through.

We also encourage you, or someone on your staff, to look at the spreadsheet. First, confirm that the data for your school district or charter school is accurate. Secondly, play with the multipliers or “dials” as they are being termed. Increase or decrease the dials to see what that does for your school district or charter school.

Finally, if you would like to testify, we encourage you to attend the meeting and sign up to do so.

You can find a copy of the bill here:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/sessioninfo/2018/interim/PSFF%20Draft%20Legislation.pdf>

You can find a copy of the spreadsheet here:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2018/interim/psff/>

It is the draft model dated February 1, 2019

LEGISLATION RELATED TO OUR RESOLUTIONS

A quick note to read below on the work we are doing on legislation related to our resolutions: While we may not discuss them at the top of each issue of Capitol Notes, we are doing work on them.

February 11 is the last day that anyone can print a bill in a committee that is not privileged. As such, we expect a plethora of bills to be printed this week. We are still hoping to get one or two bills related to our resolutions printed this year.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE LEGISLATION COMING

In addition to the Interim Committee that has been looking at the Public School Funding Formula, there has also been a Campaign Finance Reform Interim Committee meeting for the last couple of years. They are also getting ready to print several pieces of legislation. We provided comments to the committee throughout the process. However, the committee felt it was best to require everyone to comply with the same requirements rather than carving out exceptions for certain groups of candidates. At least one of the proposed amendments coming from this Committee could have an impact on school district trustees.

As a reminder, school district trustees who run for office in a school district with more than 500 students are already required to report campaign expenditures. The new legislation will require any trustee who spends more than \$500 to file campaign reports. That means if you have any idea that you might spend that much money, you will need to start tracking your expenses at the beginning of your campaign. The current legislation is set to take effect on July 1. We are working to see if we can extend the implementation date to January 1. That will allow us some time to get everyone trained on the new requirements before you have to run for election in November of this year. Stay tuned for more information on this issue.

IMMUNIZATIONS

The meningococcal immunization rule narrowly passed both the House and Senate Health and Welfare Committees and will, therefore, go into effect at the end of the session. This rule will not impact seniors until the year 20-21 school year, so you will not need to change your policies until that time. It will require seniors to receive a meningococcal booster in their last year.

In the meantime, I have heard from many of you about your concerns related to the measles outbreak that is currently occurring in Washington. We would encourage you to take a look at the students who are not currently immunized to ascertain if they are opposed to having their students receive vaccines or if they have simply not done so. The more students you can get vaccinated, the better off everyone will be.

Also, remember that if parents don't want their students vaccinated, they either need to complete the most current form provided by the Department of Health and Welfare or they may simply sign a letter stating they don't want their student vaccinated. If they sign the letter rather than the document, we encourage you to staple the letter to the blank document and store that in the student's file.

FACEBOOK LIVE

A quick shout out to everyone who has been watching Quinn and I live on Facebook every Friday at 2:15 p.m. MT. Again, these videos provide a brief summary of the week where you can join the video and ask us questions on the spot. You can watch us live on Fridays or watch previous videos here:

<https://www.facebook.com/StandUp4IdahoPublicSchools/>

ISBA LEGISLATION BASED ON RESOLUTIONS

Below is our progress on each of the ISBA Resolutions.

Revision of Idaho Code on Excision (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation, and the sponsoring district is working with their local legislator in hopes of finding a sponsor.

Education Allocation for Out of State Teachers (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We are hoping to include language amendments in the Funding Formula bill if and when that surfaces.

Card Check for Negotiations (2018) – HB647

Status: This legislation passed last year and is now law.

CTE Teachers Experience Factor (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We are hoping to include language amendments in the Funding Formula bill if and when that surfaces.

Contracts for Teachers Holding an Interim Certification under an Alternate Route (2018) – Legislation Needed,

Status: Although it passed the Senate unanimously, this legislation failed to pass the House Education committee last year. We are working to see if the House Committee would be willing to hear it again this year.

Move School Board Trustee Elections to November of Odd Years – (2018), SB1280

Status: This legislation passed and is now law.

Transportation Reimbursement (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation needs a sponsor. However, there would be winners and losers under this legislation. We are asking to see if there would be any chance to refund the \$7.5 million that was removed during the recession. This is the only recession era cut that has not been restored. We are not hopeful that the funding will be available.

K-12 Funding Principles (2018)

Status: This resolution addresses the work of the Funding Formula Committee. Now that the Committee has finished their work, we will work closely with the House and Senate Education Chairs.

Discussion of the Sale of Public Property in Executive Session (2018) – Legislation Needed

Status: We were unable to come to terms with the Press Club on this language last year. We will try again this year but are not hopeful.

Permissible Education Activities in School Bond and Levy Elections (2018) – HB620

Status: This legislation passed and is now law.

Salary Based Apportionment for Classified Salaries (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. The sponsoring districts are working to find a legislative sponsor. Because this legislation carries a very large fiscal note and because some legislators are working on the funding formula legislation, we are not sure if the Legislature will be willing to address this issue this year.

Reduce Super Majority on Facility Bonds (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. As usual, we don't expect to see any movement on this legislation this year. We are hoping to convince some legislators to put a group of people together to discuss this issue. We are hopeful that we make some headway with a task force discussion.

Executive Session on Simple Majority (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation and secured a sponsor for this legislation. However, the sponsor understands that this legislation will be more difficult than he thought to get passed. We remain hopeful that it will get a hearing.

Funding for Full Day Kindergarten (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation. *Rep. Paul Amador has agreed to sponsor the bill. We met with Chair Clow this week. We believe we will get a print hearing on this bill and hope that the Committee will agree to move it forward for a full hearing. It will NOT make it out of committee but we believe it is a good sign that the Chair is willing to have a hearing on the bill.*

Opposition to Public Funds Diverted to Private Schools (2019)

Status: This resolution does not require any legislation. We are hearing that a Representative will be bringing full blown tax credit legislation. We are hopeful that we can keep it from moving forward again this year. We will be reaching out to you to contact your legislators on this issue when it comes forward.

Amending School Age Statute for Flexibility (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have drafted legislation and secured sponsors for this legislation. We continue to work to try to get this heard in the Senate Education Committee even though the Chairman does not want to hear it. We believe we have the votes to at least pass it out of Committee.

Recourse for Charter School Renewals (2019)

Status: After speaking with a representative from the State Board of Education, we believe that we can accomplish the tenets of this resolution through Administrative Rule. The SBOE will work on a rule after the legislation session and, if passed, it will go into effect in 2020.

Strategic Plans and Reporting Requirements (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: We have been provided with a copy of the SDE's version of the legislation. It was a recommendation from Superintendent Ybarra's Red Tape Committee, so we expect that the SDE will carry this legislation. We have forwarded the SDE's version of the bill to the sponsoring districts, and they agree with the compromise legislation. We will support this when the SDE gets it printed.

Threats on School Grounds (2019) – Legislation Needed

Status: This legislation has been drafted, we have secured a sponsor, and the bill already has a Routing Slip (RS). The Legislature works on rules for the first week or two of the session, so we are hoping this will print next week.

HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

Here is a link to the Idaho State Legislature page. It can help you find out who your legislators are and how to contact them: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/>

STAY TUNED

You can view any bills that are moving through the Legislature at the following link:

<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/>

If you want to listen to committee meetings or watch debate in JFAC or on the floor of either chamber, the links to do so can be found at:

<http://idahoptv.org/insession/leg.cfm>

ISBA Bill Tracker 2019

Bills highlighted in purple are based on ISBA Resolutions
Bills highlighted in red are dead
Bills highlighted in green have become law

Bill #	TITLE	STATUS	POSITION
HB41	Public Employees, Severance Pay	Awaiting hearing	
HB65	Administrative Rulemaking Overhaul	Awaiting hearing	Neutral
HB69	PERSI Employee Definition	Awaiting hearing	Oppose
SB1029	School Turnaround Act	Awaiting Hearing	Neutral
SB1030	School Boards, Organizational Meeting	Awaiting Hearing	Support