



CAPITOL

NOTES

A WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE IDAHO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION • IDAHO LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Welcome to the second issue of Capitol Notes, ISBA's weekly newsletter updating school leaders on the Idaho Legislature.

Bill introductions began in some committees during the second week of the Legislative Session – but only one was introduced in the education committees. This bill simply cleans up language in Idaho's "Extended Learning Opportunities" and "Self-Directed Learners" statutes. The education committees heard presentations from Superintendent Critchfield and State Board President Kurt Liebich, on public school finance, student achievement, school safety and security, and what Idaho's constitution means when it comes to providing a uniform and thorough system of public schools. The focus on Idaho's constitutional and moral duty to serve students in public schools has been brought up a lot lately at the State House – especially as the conversations about ESA voucher programs are at the forefront of many legislators' policy ideas. It's one for us all to reflect on, too.

ARTICLE IX –SECTION 1 of the Idaho Constitution:

LEGISLATURE TO ESTABLISH SYSTEM OF FREE SCHOOLS. The stability of a republican form of government depending mainly upon the intelligence of the people, it shall be the duty of the legislature of Idaho, to establish and maintain a general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools.

We expect bill introductions to pick up significantly in the next two weeks.

ISBA Bill Tracker

ISBA is currently tracking **TWO** bills impacting Idaho public education. The complete bill tracker includes detailed information and ISBA staff analysis regarding the bills.

**CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE ISBA
BILL TRACKER**

Potential Change to JFAC and Why School Leaders Should Pay Attention:

A potential change is being proposed to the way the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) votes on state budgets at the committee level. JFAC is where the public schools budget is set each fiscal year.

How it works now: The committee is made up of ten members from the House and ten members from the Senate. They vote as one committee on state budgets with a simple majority of 11 votes needed to advance to the floor.

Proposed Change: Speaker of the House Mike Moyle is suggesting they split the committee votes in two, requiring a budget to pass twice before it advances to the floor, with 12 total votes (six from the House and six from the Senate) required to pass. If it passes one vote but fails the other, it would fail, and a new budget would have to be put forward.

Pros and Cons: Advocates of the proposed change feel it will increase certainty that budgets will pass once they get to the floor. Opponents fear it will make passing budgets out of committee overly burdensome, especially on issues like the public schools' budget and other health and welfare programs. It could also extend the session.

To read more about the proposed change to JFAC, [click here](#).

Boots on the Ground

ISBA Legislative Update with Quinn Perry

Join ISBA's Quinn Perry, for the first bi-weekly, **Boots on the Ground Webinar**, as she touches on hot topic issues affecting Idaho public schools and informs you on how you can stay involved in this year's legislative session.

Registration Information:

When: January 31, 2023

Time: 12:00 pm MT

Where: Zoom - Register by clicking the link below.

[Register Now](#)



BOOTS ON THE GROUND
ISBA's Legislative Update with Quinn Perry

JANUARY 31, 2023
12:00 pm MT

 Hosted on Zoom

Advocacy Opportunity - Register Now!



Register Here!

Book your hotel today:
The Grove Hotel
Hotel 43

ISBA Day on the Hill

This year's Day on the Hill will include:

- School board hot topics workshop
- Message training on current legislative issues
- Networking with fellow school board members
- A panel featuring Idaho's education stakeholders
- Senate and House Education Committee presentations
- Breakfast speakers on bipartisan approaches to policy making
- Legislative proceedings and a chance to meet with legislators
- The opportunity to have lunch with your legislator

How to Keep Up

You can find committee agendas, reading calendars, legislator information, and more by visiting the **Idaho State Legislature Website**.

You can find live video coverage and footage of the 2023 Legislative Session by visiting the **Idaho Public Television - Idaho in Session site**.

Who is representing ISBA at the Capitol?



Misty Swanson
Executive Director



Quinn Perry
Deputy Director &
Government Affairs



Katie Drum
Communications & Program
Associate

You may have new legislators! Learn who they are and how to contact them by visiting the **Idaho Legislature website.**



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