

2020 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 10

ESTABLISHING LIMITS ON NON-ELECTED CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

WHEREAS, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission authorizes new charter schools without necessarily consulting, informing, or securing approval of patrons in communities; and

WHEREAS, the authorization of charter schools by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission is decided with little or no consideration of the educational services currently provided by the school district(s) to its patrons; and

WHEREAS, members of the Idaho Public Charter School Commission are political appointees not elected by patrons in communities where charters are authorized; and

WHEREAS, members of charter school governing boards authorized by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission are not elected by communities where charter schools are established; and

WHEREAS, members of charter school governing boards authorized by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission are not required to reside in the communities their charter schools serve; and

WHEREAS, the authorization by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission of multiple charter schools in a community creates a deconsolidation of education services and inefficiencies in the use of public resources; and

WHEREAS, the authorization by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission of multiple charter schools in a community is allowed with little or no regard for the impact on existing education services provided to children in the community; and

WHEREAS, the demographic profile of students in charter schools authorized by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission does not necessarily reflect the demographics of the communities where schools are authorized. This includes, but not limited to, socio economic background, eligibility for special education, and English language proficiency; and

WHEREAS, according to the most recent performance reports available for Idaho Public Charter School Commission-authorized charter schools, nearly half (47.5%) of the schools are in remedial or critical status for academic performance; and

WHEREAS, little to no accountability systems exist for the political appointees to the Idaho Public Charter School Commission and other potential non-school district authorizers;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association shall work to amend Idaho Code to limit the number of charter schools the Idaho Public Charter School Commission and any other non-school district authorizer may authorize such that only 1 (one) such charter school may be authorized per each 25,000 of people residing within the legal boundaries of any Idaho school district.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Idaho Public Charter School Commission's authority to authorize charter schools in a community may create racial, social economic and resource inequities in communities. Further, Idaho Public Charter School Commission members, as political appointees are not elected, and members of the governing boards of Commission authorized charter schools are not elected by those they serve or required to reside in the community they serve. This resolution would limit the number of charter schools such authorizers could oversee to one school per 25,000 residents of the school district in which the charter school would be sited.

Submitted by Caldwell School District No. 132
Submitted by Payette School District No. 371

Sources:

<https://chartercommission.idaho.gov/pcsc-schools/pcsc-annual-report/>

<https://www.idahoednews.org/news/idaho-charter-schools-underserve-minority-poor-populations/>

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO NOT PASS

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