

2020 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 12

K-12 FUNDING FORMULA PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the State of Idaho states: “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;” and

WHEREAS, 95 of the 115 school districts in Idaho have supplemental levies in order to maintain operations; and

WHEREAS, many school districts are not able to pass supplemental levies or to pass supplemental levies that are adequate to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS the Idaho Legislature does not provide funds for the construction and maintenance of facilities; and

WHEREAS, these practices have resulted in a public school system that is neither uniform or thorough; and

WHEREAS, the 2019 Legislature approved HB 293, establishing definitions to be used in a Student-Based Funding Formula (SBFF); and

WHEREAS, those definitions will be used to guide reporting of student enrollment data that will be utilized in the creation of the SBFF; and

WHEREAS, the SBFF will be used to drive and distribute over half a billion dollars in state funds to LEAs.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association shall work with the Idaho Legislature to adopt a funding formula that is based upon the following principles:

- Predictability: It should have the ability to accurately predict and budgets in coming years;
- Adequacy: It should provide sufficient funding for districts and charter schools to provide essentials to students;
- Transparency: The process should be clear,
- Stability: There should be no cliffs from year to year,
- Equitability: It should differentiate between LEAs in a way that recognizes their unique needs,
- Honors the experience of staff,
- Honors the education of staff,

- Holds harmless: No LEA should lose funding, i.e., the cost per pupil is not lower than the current funding model; and the new model should take into account growing enrollment.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Over the past three years, a K-12 public school funding formula legislative interim committee has worked to develop a proposal for a new K-12 funding formula. While the proposed model was not approved, the 2019 Legislature did approve HB 293, which established definitions to be used in a SBFF model to be considered by the 2020 Legislature. It is our belief that by having a standard of fundamental guiding principles provides a measure against which ideas can be weighed and evaluated. These guiding principles represent a philosophical direction for funding public schools and reflect some of the concerns identified with the proposed model that was released last year.

Submitted by Boise School District No. 1

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS

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