

## **2020 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 15**

### **AMEND IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION ACADEMIC FRAMEWORK**

**WHEREAS**, The Idaho Public Charter School Commission's mission is in part to balance high standards of accountability with respect for charter school autonomy; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission (PCSC) adopted the guidelines from the National Association of Charter School Administrators (NACSA), which advocates rating charter schools based on performance on certain tests and closing schools that do not outperform traditional public schools; and

**WHEREAS**, NACSA's "outperform traditional public schools" mantra is now the guiding principle at the PCSC, rather than that charter schools should provide choice to families that were struggling to succeed in the traditional system; and

**WHEREAS**, aside from the accountability standards to which all Idaho public schools are held, the "high standards" the PCSC monitors are almost solely based upon ISAT performance and are proving to be unfair and unworkable for charter schools with underserved student populations; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho charter schools offer solutions for education concerns that are impossible to measure with ISAT performance, and many Idaho families are willing to sacrifice better ISAT performance; and

**WHEREAS**, schools with challenging demographics are targeted for closure while those with fewer challenges and higher-performing students in higher income brackets are deemed "good" or "high-performing" schools worthy of duplication. This duplication is often at the expense of those schools in hard-to-serve areas or virtual and online schools which serve similarly challenging student populations.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Idaho School Boards Association calls upon the Idaho State Legislature to direct the PCSC to return to its original mission, which was to assist charter schools in providing choice in Idaho public education. ISBA also calls for replacing the Academic Framework of the Performance Certificate with the state accountability system to which all public schools are held and which is determined by the State Department of Education and based upon Idaho and Federal law. We further call on the State Legislature to recognize that parents have a right to choose schooling options for their children and that parental choice is based on many factors beyond academic performance.

**FURTHERMORE**, if the PCSC is not able to revise its accountability measure to better reflect the values of Idaho families instead of the values of its own professional bureaucrats, then the Idaho School Boards Association board calls upon the Idaho Legislature to dissolve the PCSC entirely.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This resolution will direct the Idaho School Boards Association to seek legislative action to direct the Public Charter School Commission to pursue a mission of increasing public school choice to families in Idaho, to replace the Performance Certificate approach to charter school oversight with the state accountability system, and call on the State Legislature to recognize that parents' choice of their students' school is based on many factors beyond academic performance. In the event the PCSC does not revise its accountability measures, it would direct ISBA to call on the Legislature to disband the PCSC.

**Submitted by the Idaho Virtual Academy Board of Directors**

**Submitted by the iSucceed Virtual High School Board of Directors**

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO NOT PASS**

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