

## **2021 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 14**

### **ESTABLISHING EXPECTATIONS FOR THE IDAHO PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION AND NON-ELECTED CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS**

**WHEREAS**, the Idaho Public Charter School Commission authorizes new charter schools without 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 without a comprehensive impact study of the educational services currently provided by the local school district(s) and existing charter schools already established; and

**WHEREAS**, the authorizations of charter schools by the Idaho Public Charter School Commission is decided without consideration of the effect multiple charter schools in a community creates by deconsolidating education services, which exacerbates inefficiencies in the use of public resources.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho School Boards Association shall work to amend Idaho Code to provide greater oversight of the Idaho Charter School Commission and other potential non-school district authorizers with the expectations that: (1) prior to considering a new charter school in a community, patrons of that community must be consulted and informed and must approve of any request before it moves forward; (2) a comprehensive community impact study must be completed; (3) charter school governing board members must be residents of the community or communities representing the geographical location of the charter school (see Idaho Code 33-501); and (4) existing and new charter schools student demographic profiles will reflect the demographics of the communities where charter schools are authorized. In addition, the Idaho School Boards Association shall work to amend the Idaho Code to limit charter school authorization such that only (1) one charter school may be authorized per each 25,000 of people residing within the legal boundaries of any Idaho school district.

#### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Idaho's charter schools have flourished and multiplied since a process was provided for creating them more than 20 years ago. Charter schools have proliferated in Idaho's population centers, providing choice. However, areas may be reaching a saturation point, creating inefficiencies in the use of public resources. This resolution would

require the Idaho Charter School Commission, prior to approving new charter schools, to complete a comprehensive impact study of the proposed charter school's impact on existing public schools and on existing charter schools in the area and limit the number of charter schools such authorizers could approve to one (1) school per 25,000 residents of the school district in which the charter school would be situated.

**Sources:**

<https://chartercommission.idaho.gov/resources/p-csc-2019-annual-report/>

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

**Submitted by Caldwell School District No. 132**

**Recommendation of the ISBA Executive Board: Do Not Pass**

*Karen Pyron will address the ISBA Executive Board's Recommendation*