

2021 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 10

FULL FUNDING OF ALL DAY KINDERGARTEN

WHEREAS, research shows the increase in the number of full day kindergarten programs is due to various social, economic, and educational factors; and

WHEREAS, kindergarten students who participate in full day kindergarten make greater gains in their mathematics and reading achievement when compared to those attending half-day classes; and

WHEREAS, in a statewide survey presented by the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, 75 percent of respondents said they would be "very likely" or "somewhat likely" to send their children to public preschool if it were available in their community; and

WHEREAS, districts and charters that offer full day kindergarten programs must employ 1.0 FTE per kindergarten classroom, while currently only receiving .5 FTE funding for the kindergarten program compared to other elementary grades; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association research, draft, and submit legislation - or, support legislation - that proposes the State of Idaho fund full day kindergarten the same way it does all other elementary students. Such legislation shall be sought regardless of whether the legislature amends the current funding formula. This change would allow districts or charters that offer full day kindergarten increased financial stability and decrease the amount of local support districts or charter schools utilize through supplemental levies or discretionary dollars.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The lack of funding for full day kindergarten puts a hardship on local districts and charters schools. Funding kindergarten at the same rate as all other elementary students would allow districts and charters more flexibility in bridging the gaps seen in early childhood literacy.

Fiscal Note: \$62.8 Million Dollars (based on estimated calculations provided by the State Department of Education).

Submitted by Nampa School District No. 131

Recommendation of the ISBA Executive Board: Do Pass

Jennifer Parkins will address the ISBA Executive Board's Recommendation

PASSED

AYES	5909
NAYES	682
TOTAL	6591