

2022 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 6

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, 93 of the 115 school districts in Idaho have supplemental levies 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 nor thorough; and

WHEREAS, the funding formula will be used to drive and distribute over half a billion dollars in state funds to Local Education Agencies (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 sharp drops in funding 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

For three years, a K-12 public school funding formula legislative interim committee 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 Student-Based Funding Formula (SBFF) model that was to be considered by the 2020 Legislature. During the 2021 Legislative Session, the SBFF model was not addressed, leaving the issue unresolved for Idaho's students, educators, and taxpayers. We believe that 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 in 2019.

Submitted by Boise School District No. 1

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS

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