

2023 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 2

ADD A FUNDING STREAM TO HELP SERVE SAFETY NEEDS IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND CHARTER SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, school district and charter school boards are responsible for the overall safety of the students, and staff and each of their individual safety needs may be different; and

WHEREAS, specialized training for staff may be necessary but is not funded by state or federal appropriation; and

WHEREAS, upgrades to the building security and safety vestibules may be necessary and are not funded by state or federal appropriation; and

WHEREAS, any hiring of school resource officers is not funded by state or federal appropriation; and

WHEREAS, when school districts and charter schools are not provided necessary funds to ensure they are providing a safe environment for their students and staff, school districts and charter schools are forced to rely on voter-approved bonds or levies or put financial strain on their general fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature, State Board of Education, State Department of Education, and other education stakeholders to establish and fund a School Safety Grant Program where Idaho's public-school districts and charter schools can apply for school safety enhancements, including but not limited to facility improvements, training for school staff, school safety technology, and more.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

School Board Members are statutorily responsible for the safety of the students and staff in each of their school districts and charter schools, and school safety is a general concern of Idaho citizens. Around the state, the needs of each school or district may differ – some may want to provide specialized training for staff, others may hire new or additional school resource officers, and others may need facility upgrades. Because none of these items are funded by a specific appropriation, they could put additional burdens on voter-approved tax levies or financially strain existing school budgets. This resolution would direct the ISBA to work with key partners to establish a “School Safety Grant Program” that public schools could apply to for funds that meet their individual needs for school safety.

Submitted by Marsing Joint School District No. 363

ISBA Executive Board Recommendation: Do Pass

Jody Hendrickx, Immediate Past President, will present the ISBA recommendation during the annual business session.