

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 3

FUNDING SAFE AND SECURE SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, the safety and security of students, educators, and school staff are of paramount importance to ensure a conducive learning environment; and

WHEREAS, recent events have highlighted the vulnerability of educational institutions to various forms of threats and violence; and

WHEREAS, the well-being of our children is fundamental to the future prosperity and stability of our communities and nation; and

WHEREAS, effective measures to enhance school safety include but are not limited to: hiring trained security personnel, implementing advanced security systems, providing mental health resources, and conducting regular safety drills; and

WHEREAS, many schools lack the necessary funding to implement comprehensive safety and security measures; and

WHEREAS, investing in school safety can prevent tragedies, reduce anxiety among students and staff, and foster a positive educational atmosphere.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature, State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Education, and other education stakeholders to prioritize and allocate adequate funding for the enhancement of safety and security in schools and urges collaboration between federal, state, and local governments to ensure that all schools, regardless of their financial status, have the resources necessary to protect their students and staff;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this funding should support a wide range of initiatives, including but not limited to:

1. Security Personnel: Hiring and training of school resource officers and security staff.
2. Security Infrastructure: Installation and maintenance of surveillance cameras, secure entry points, alarm systems, and other physical security measures.
3. Mental Health Resources: Provision of counselors, psychologists, and other mental health professionals to address the emotional and psychological needs of students.
4. Emergency Preparedness: Development and implementation of emergency response plans, including regular drills and training for staff and students.
5. Community Engagement: Programs to involve parents, community members, and local law enforcement in school safety efforts.

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. The needs of each school district differ and there is not an adequate funding appropriation for this purpose. Districts do receive Safe & Drug Free funding from the sale of tobacco products and lottery winnings. However, *“Funding for Safe and Drug Free Schools is generated through taxes on tobacco products and lottery winnings. As such the revenue is dependent upon sales and winnings and can be difficult to estimate. Given this variability, applications will be reviewed, approved and funded as they are received and as revenue is available. If revenue is not available to fund approved applications, payments will be made as soon as the revenue is sufficient”* (<https://apps2.sde.idaho.gov/SDFS/Home/Home>). For this reason, Safe & Drug Free funding is an unreliable funding source, which forces districts to seek voter-approved tax levies or strain existing school budgets. This disparity and variability creates inequity throughout the state. This resolution would direct the ISBA to work with key partners to establish adequate funding that public schools can rely on each year in order to address their individual needs for school safety and security.

Submitted by Caldwell School District No. 132

North Star Charter School

Jefferson School District No. 251

West Bonner County School District No. 83

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Jason Sevy, Vice President, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

PASSED

AYES 7637

NAYES 398

TOTAL 8035