

2025 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 4

INVITING STATE AND LOCAL LEADERS TO SUPPORT DISTRICT EFFORTS TO IMPROVE EARLY LEARNING

WHEREAS, early childhood education is crucial for the academic, social, and emotional development of children; and

WHEREAS, research indicates that high-quality early learning programs can lead to better educational outcomes, including higher graduation rates and improved reading and math skills; and

WHEREAS, Idaho is one of the few states that does not currently invest in early childhood education options for families with children aged 3 to 5 ([Idaho's Children Still Lack Access to State-Funded Preschool](#)); and

WHEREAS, An April 2024 national report ([NIEER State of Preschool Yearbook 2023](#)) that Idaho is one of six states that still lack a state-funded preschool program; and

WHEREAS, a significant percentage of Idaho children enter kindergarten without the necessary skills to succeed, with 53% demonstrating below grade-level reading skills; in the Caldwell School District 80% of children entering kindergarten demonstrate below grade-level reading skills; and

WHEREAS, local school districts and charter schools strive to prepare all children for kindergarten but face limitations due to current funding restrictions; and

WHEREAS, 64% of three and four-year-olds in Idaho are currently not enrolled in an early childhood education program, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation ([2024 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK 2024 State Trends in Child Well-Being](#)) data on overall child well-being in Idaho, highlighting a significant need for increased access to such programs; and

WHEREAS, community support and collaboration among state and local leaders, educators, and families are essential for the successful implementation and sustainability of early learning initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association calls upon state and local leaders, including the Governor, State Legislature, State Board of Education, Idaho Department of Education, and local government officials to prioritize and support early learning initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that state and local leaders are encouraged to work collaboratively with school districts and charter schools to provide the necessary resources and flexibility to implement high-quality early learning programs that meet the needs of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this support includes advocating for policy changes, securing funding, and promoting awareness of the importance of early childhood education; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association is committed to partnering with state and local leaders, educators, families, and community organizations to ensure all Idaho children have access to the early learning opportunities they need to succeed in school and life.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The purpose of this resolution is to invite and encourage state and local leaders to prioritize and support efforts to improve early learning in Idaho. By working together, we can provide school districts and charter schools with the resources and flexibility needed to ensure that all children are prepared for kindergarten and beyond. This resolution seeks to foster collaboration and commitment among all stakeholders to address the critical need for early childhood education in our state.

**Submitted by Caldwell School District No. 132
Basin School District No. 72**

Recommendation from the ISBA Executive Board: DO PASS

Leslie Baker, Region 9, will address the Executive Board Recommendation at the ISBA Business Session.

PASSED	AYES	4891
	NAYES	3020
	TOTAL	7911