

## **2024 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 1**

### **ALIGNING IDAHO'S SCHOOL AGE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, Idaho's high school graduation requirements include student participation in a college entrance exam and the state provides entrance exams free of charge in the spring of the student's 11th grade or junior year, when most students are older than 16 years; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho's formula for determining graduation rates for high school accountability is based on four-year cohorts, including two years when most public school students are older than 16; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho high schools are accountable for reaching at least a 90 percent graduation goal; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho's high schools are accountable for college and career readiness as measured by student participation in advanced opportunities courses; including Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, international baccalaureate, and career technical courses completed by the 12th grade or senior year; when most students are 17 years or older; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho's high schools are accountable for college and career readiness as measured by student acquiring industry recognized professional or technical certifications which are completed in the 12th grade or senior year, when most students are 17 years or older; and

**WHEREAS**, Idaho has not amended its school age requirements to align with its expectations of student achievement in public education;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho School Boards Association shall draft legislation to align Idaho Code Section 33-202, Idaho Code, with the state's accountability requirements for public schools by changing the required school age from 16 to 18, unless the pupil has graduated early or has received their GED.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Idaho's accountability measures for high schools rely upon students completing academic requirements, participating in college level work, and mastering industry level skills during a four-year window. Two of those four years occur in the final two years of high school, when most students are older than 16. Section 33-202, Idaho Code, should be amended to support state accountability expectations for schools by changing the required school age from 16 to 18, unless the pupil has graduated early or has received their GED.

**Supporting Data and Information:**

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/accountability/files/accountabilityresults/2018/Graduation-Rate.pdf>

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/accountability/files/accountabilityresults/2018/Graduation-Rate.pdf>

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

**Submitted by Jefferson Joint School District No. 215**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS**

***Michelle Lippert, Region 1 Chair, will present the ISBA Executive Board recommendation.***

## 2024 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 2

### 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 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 needs to all students, pay competitive wages with neighboring states and the private sector, and keep pace with inflation and cost of living;
- **Transparency:** The process should be clear where the money is coming from, how it is being spent, and easy to understand by all stakeholders;
- **Stability:** There should be no cliffs from year to year;
- **Uniform and Thorough:** It should provide support for students so they can demonstrate growth, fund the additional needs of special populations, and address facility and safety needs;
- **Quality Staffing:** Honors the experience of staff, honors the education of staff, and provides funding to recruit and retain qualified 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;

- Enrollment: Maintain enrollment-based funding recognizing that districts must staff, maintain adequate facilities, and purchase materials based on the number of students enrolled, and not based on the number of students that are present on a given day;
- Accountable: Tied to the LEA's documented goals, and that all recipients of public funding are held to the same requirements.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

For 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. During the 2023 Legislative session funding formula ideas were discussed and a bill produced. These guiding principles represent a philosophical direction for funding public schools and reflect some of the concerns identified with the proposed models.

**Submitted by Boise School District No. 1**

**Submitted by Cambridge School District No. 432**

**Submitted by Jefferson Joint School District No. 215**

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS**

***Jason Sevy, Region 3 Vice Chair, will present the ISBA Executive Board recommendation.***

## **2024 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 3**

### **OPEN ENROLLMENT PROGRAM AND BUILDING CAPACITY LIMITS**

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1125 of the 2023 Legislative session modified Idaho Code 33-1402 to require districts to accept students from outside the district boundaries with few exceptions, and modified Idaho Code 33-1403 to not allow districts to transfer students based on capacity issues without parent consent; and

**WHEREAS**, Senate Bill 1125 has an exception for capacity per grade level, but not an exception for building capacity or program capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, CTE programs, Gifted and Talented programs, Special Education programs, and other similar programs are special programs run by districts; and

**WHEREAS**, many special programs contain multiple grade levels in a single building or program; and

**WHEREAS**, those special programs have limited capacity that is less than the grade level capacity of the building; and

**WHEREAS**, special programs often have legal, age, proficiency, or skill level requirements that must be met before being accepted into the program; and

**WHEREAS**, A building can be at capacity when some grades are over capacity, while other grades are below capacity.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**

- that the Idaho School Boards Association supports modifying Idaho Code 33-1402 to allow districts to make open enrollment decisions based on the current allowable exceptions and include both building capacity and special program capacity in those exceptions. Also, that Idaho Code 33-1402 be modified to allow districts to list both building capacity and special program capacity in the required reporting sections.
- that Idaho Code 33-1403 be modified to allow districts to consider the enrollment requirements of special programs as an exception to the requirement.
- that Idaho Code 33-1403 section 4 be modified to add an exception that allows districts to transfer students to another school when the current school has reached or exceed capacity without parent consent while still requiring parent notification.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Open enrollment can be an important component of school choice. While we support the use of open enrollment to allow parents to make decisions about which school their student attends, the solo capacity exception being tied to grade level enrollment makes the process problematic for providing students with the best opportunities.

Many districts have special programs for Career Technical Education (CTE), gifted and talented programs, and self-contained special education. Those programs require specialized equipment, uniquely certified staff that are hard to fill positions, and often large, specialized locations. The programs also have students from multiple grade levels and/or schools enrolled in the programs. Those programs often have to be accredited and reported under an existing traditional school. The traditional school may have capacity at a given grade level, but the special program may be at capacity. The district cannot easily add additional capacity due to the unique needs and requirements of the programs. As written, the law may not allow districts to deny enrollment to a special program if the school/grade level which the program is housed under has capacity. An exception to the law that allows capacity within a special program will alleviate this issue.

Currently it is possible that multiple grade levels in a building may be above capacity with in-district students while one grade level is below capacity. As the law is written a district would have to take open enrolled students into the one grade level that is below capacity even though it may cause the building to exceed its capacity. That can cause the district issues with fire code, staffing, lunch programs, etc. In addition to grade level capacity, districts should be able to consider the building capacity when considering open enrollment. If a building has reached capacity a district needs the ability to limit open enrollment.

Many special programs have legal, age, proficiency, or skill level requirements for entry into a special program. Gifted and talented programs often require that a student score at a certain level on entry exams to be eligible for the program. Special education programs can have age and/or legal requirements before services can be provided to the student. When these programs are also stand-alone schools, districts need the ability to verify the open enrolling students have met the same legal or skill requirements that in-district students must meet before allowing enrollment into the school/program. Districts need an exception that allows schools/programs to require open enrolling students to meet the same requirements as in-district students when being considered for enrollment.

**Submitted by Boise School District No. 1  
Submitted by Jefferson Joint School District No. 215**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS**

***Brett Plummer, Region 7 Vice Chair, will present the ISBA Executive Board recommendation.***

## **2024 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 4**

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR PARAPROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT IN IDAHO**

**WHEREAS**, Idaho has a shortage of paraprofessionals; and

**WHEREAS**, recent changes by the testing vendor no longer allow LEA's to administer the paraprofessional competency test; and

**WHEREAS**, the new testing method increased the cost of testing each paraprofessional by \$80 per test; and

**WHEREAS**, the testing method has up to a month waiting list delaying the start date of need personnel; and

**WHEREAS**, retesting can take up to an additional month in the new system.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Idaho School Boards Association requests that IDAPA 08.02.02.10 be amended to allow districts to use an Idaho State Board of Education approved local assessment to allow paraprofessionals to demonstrate their knowledge and ability to assist students and teachers, or use existing Idaho State Board of Education approved paraprofessional subject matter competency tests.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

One of the most common employment needs in education across the state of Idaho is the paraprofessional. The paraprofessional shortage across our state continues to have a detrimental impact on Idaho's schools and students. There are many causes for this shortage, however the current ETS-ParaPro (PRAXIS) requirement is one of the main barriers. As of December 23, 2022, local districts are no longer able to administer the PRAXIS. Instead, prospective employees are required to go to a testing site where they are required to pay an increased \$80 fee up front prior to testing. The testing system is already backlogged nearly one month for scheduling the test, and should the prospective employee fail the test by even a single point, they would need to wait at least another month to retest. In an effort to resolve this issue, Human Resource Directors from various districts recently got together to propose changes to the current language as indicated below. These changes would still fulfill the federal requirements regarding paraprofessional employment and put Idaho's requirements in line with several other states. This added flexibility would allow greater local control but still provide the State Board of Education with oversight of any exam that is developed and administered in lieu of the PRAXIS.

**Submitted by Boise School District No. 1**

**Submitted by Jefferson Joint School District No. 215**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS**

*Joy Thomas, Region 3 Chair, will present the ISBA Executive Board recommendation.*

## **2024 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 5**

### **CAREER LADDER PLACEMENT FOR SCHOOL NURSE AND SPEECH/LANGUAGE PERSONNEL**

**WHEREAS**, the recruitment and retainment of highly effective school nurse personnel is essential to the health of students and staff and to the academic achievement of students in the Idaho public school system; and

**WHEREAS**, the recruitment and retainment of highly effective Speech/Language pathologists (SLP) is essential to the general development and academic achievement of students in the Idaho public school system; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Idaho is experiencing a shortage of school nurse and SLP personnel in various grade level buildings, entire school districts, and throughout the entire State of Idaho; and

**WHEREAS**, currently new school nurses and SLPs are only placed on the allocation cell dependent upon certificated experience in schools; and

**WHEREAS**, many school nurses and SLPs have significant, meaningful, and valuable experience working outside of a school setting; and

**WHEREAS**, many Idaho school districts and charter schools are absorbing the additional cost of paying school nurses and SLPs at an enhanced salary rate or considering this action to recruit and retain high quality, professional school nurses and SLPs;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature to amend Idaho Code 33-1004B to create a mechanism to attract nurses, speech/language pathologists, and other licensed individuals to work in Idaho public schools and to place them appropriately on the career ladder based on professional, out of school, and in school experiences. This could include but is not limited to utilizing the method used for CTE teachers in Idaho Code 33-1004B(6)(a) in which specific number of years of industry experience equates to specific placement on the career ladder.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The intent of the resolution is to develop a system for paying school nurse and speech/language personnel a salary that is commensurate with their professional and/or in-school experiences and to assist school districts in the recruitment and retention of such professional staff.



**Submitted by Moscow School District No. 281**

**RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS**

***Willy Schmitt, Region 6 Chair, will present the ISBA Executive Board recommendation.***

## **ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 6**

### **STREAMLINING CONSISTENT ISBA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Idaho School Boards Association play an important and active role in determining the legislative priorities of the Association; and

**WHEREAS**, the members of the Idaho School Boards Association bring legislative priorities annually through submission of ISBA Resolutions which expire – unless acted upon – every two years; and

**WHEREAS**, instead of asking ISBA members to renew expiring resolutions that have already passed the membership, the ISBA Executive Board has compiled a list of priorities which reflect the will of the Members; and

**WHEREAS**, nothing in this resolution prevents any member from bringing forward new resolutions or editing prior resolutions;

**WHEREAS**, this resolution may be reviewed and amended every other year but continues to streamline long standing priorities of ISBA Members; and

**WHEREAS**, ISBA members have consistently passed ISBA Resolutions that:

1. Retain the ability for local school board members to have strong governance and decision-making authority of their schools in order to meet the needs of their students, staff and community.
2. Call upon the State of Idaho to consider more adequate, efficient, and reliable options for funding school facilities – including, but not limited to – amending the 2/3 Supermajority requirement for bonds or creating alternative funding streams for school facilities.
3. Oppose Idaho’s public, taxpayer funds from being allocated – in any manner – to private and parochial schools who maintain no accountability or transparency to the public or to the State of Idaho.
4. Opposing legislation that creates more undue burden on public schools – including unfunded mandates or removing necessary tools for school funding.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho School Boards Association continues these legislative priorities if they may again be legislatively reviewed in advance of the 2024 Legislative session.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

ISBA members have consistently brought ISBA Resolutions on these matters. Some of these priorities may never be fully accomplished (such as opposing school vouchers), and others may take more time to accomplish. Instead of asking each resolution to be renewed, this streamlines the process and provides an avenue for other consistent priorities to be included in one Resolution.

**Submitted by the ISBA Executive Board**

**Submitted by Jefferson Joint School District No. 215**

***Sandy Kennelly, Region 1 Vice Chair, will present the resolution. Anne Ritter, Region 9 Vice Chair, will present the ISBA Executive Board recommendation.***

## **ISBA PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 7**

### **BOND AND LEVY ELECTION COMMUNICATIONS**

**WHEREAS**, informing the public adequately about proposed bond and levy elections is essential to ensuring an informed electorate;

**WHEREAS**, voter participation is an essential facet of democratic elections;

**WHEREAS**, as currently written, Idaho Code § 34-913 and §34-914 may prohibit school districts from sending brief reminders to voters about election dates through text messages, school marquee notices, or other means,

**WHEREAS**, Idaho Code § 34-913 and § 34-914 require that election results must be declared invalid for noncompliance, the scope of this statute should be limited to the language of the official ballot and not to more frequent and less formal communications from taxing districts;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho Legislature to amend Idaho Code § 34-913 and § 34-913 to move the requirements of § 34-913.1.5 and § 34-914.1.4 to Idaho Code § 74-604, which is more commensurate with the intent of this language, and to provide more flexibility to taxing districts to permit brief messages reminding voters of elections or directing voters to websites or communications with more in depth information about elections that also include the required disclosure language.

### **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

This resolution directs the Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) to work with the Legislature to amend existing statute to allow school districts and other taxing districts more flexibility in communicating brief messages and reminders about public elections.

**Submitted by Bonneville Joint School District No. 93**

**Submitted by the ISBA Executive Board**

**Submitted by Jefferson Joint School District No. 215**

### **RECOMMENDATION OF THE ISBA EXECUTIVE BOARD: DO PASS**

***Karen Pyron, Region 7 Chair, will present the ISBA Executive Board recommendation.***