

Idahoans for Choice in Education

Creating a Brighter Future for Idaho Families

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

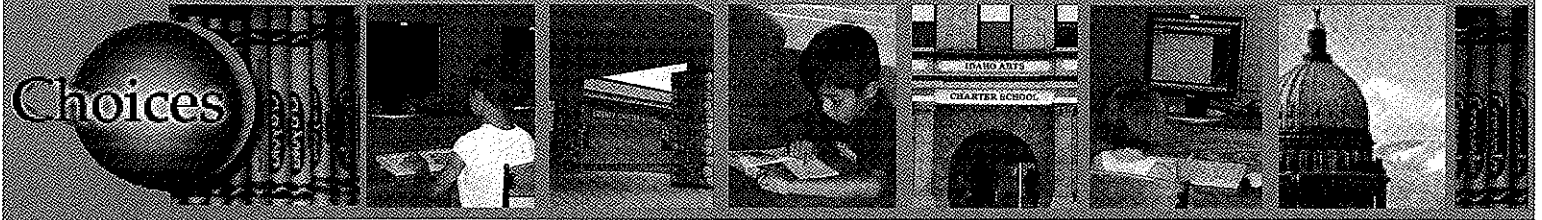
Home School

Harbor School

Traditional School

Charter School

Virtual School



SOME GOOD, SOME NOT SO GOOD BUT NECESSARY!

Tough times require tough choices! I never thought that I would be supporting revenue reductions to our public school system. However, these are not ordinary times. Nearly everyone is experiencing some financial "pain." (fifty years in the "business" gives some insight) In my own community, businesses are closing, people are losing their jobs and there is "talk" of more dire hardships on the horizon. So, in spite of all the clamor from some in the education community, public school educators must be part of the greater community and not try to place their roles above their fellow citizens. We all have to share some of the pain or some will get more than their share! Also, the teacher's union (IEA) should play a positive role in these trying times. While the three bills listed below are at least partial solutions to the dilemma, we do have some reservations about SB 252.

SB 256: The purpose of this legislation is to reduce costs and promote transportation efficiency. We could not agree more! We are actually enthusiastic about this bill as it goes a long ways in correcting a currently flawed funding formula. Presently we "run up" the transportation bill and send it to someone else to pay. Not much incentive there! With this bill, school boards and administrators will have an incentive to make good transportation decisions because for every dollar they save, they will get 50 cents back instead of the current 15. Good bill!

SB 262: This bill will minimize the "pain" as it will protect the "system" in that it will assist School Districts in keeping student-teacher contact time intact and will also prevent reduction in force of the teaching staff. Fiscally, it is the responsible route to take in these tough times. Good bill!

SB 252: This bill gives us some "heart-burn" as it places the solutions to the fiscal dilemma squarely on the bargaining table. At the "table" local schools boards are rarely a good match to the union, it is a place where the "children" can be used and a place where school districts can and will in some instances get into more fiscal trouble. However, there is no doubt that the dilemma must have a solution, and while we preferred HB 117, which dealt with the problem at the origin and did not pass it off for someone else to solve, this legislation will have to do.

While these bills will be perceived as inflicting terrible and un-retractable harm and the IEA will be citing dire consequences, you can rest assured that when the school year of 2009-2010 ends, little will have changed. The high school dropout rate will not have changed, the same number of kids will still not be reading at grade level and all of the "ills" of our k-12 system will still be present, no better, no worse. Because more or less money is NOT the primary cause nor the solution, it never has been, it never will be.



Darrell Deide, Chairman



Holland Johnson, Treasurer

SCHOOL CHOICE:

Freedom to choose a school that provides the environment that you desire...not someone else's!

Freedom to choose a school that meets your student's needs... not someone else's!

Freedom to choose a school that meets your expectations... not someone else's!

Freedom to choose a school based upon its performance... not where you live!

Darrel Deide, Chairman

Holland Johnson, Treasurer

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"Expanding Educational Choices for Idaho Families"

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