



Idahoans for Choice in Education

Creating a Brighter Future for Idaho Families

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Home School

Harbor School

Traditional School

Charter School

Virtual School



Darrell Deide,
Chairman



Holland Johnson,
Treasurer

Will The Recent Election Results Impact K-12

For years, a small set of lawmakers have stood in the way of real education reform in Boise. The May 25 primary election might make a big difference for Idaho's public schools, but we won't know for sure until after the November election. However, for now, it appears there could be a shift to the conservative in the Idaho State Senate and particularly in the Senate Education Committee. Most noticeably absent from that committee will be Gary Schroeder, a nine-term liberal Republican who had served for many years as that committee's chairman. He was a strong supporter of expanding the public school system to include pre-kindergarten students. He opposed charter schools. And Schroeder never drifted too far away from the wishes of the teacher's union, the Idaho Education Association. The Republican candidate who defeated him, Gresham Bouma, would be a vast improvement, but he will face a strong challenge in the general election from the Democrat, Dan Schmidt.

Overall, the Senate lost four Republican incumbents, Senators Schroeder, Jorgensen, Coiner and Heinrich which will result, regardless of the general election, in a more conservative body. That bodes well for the improvement of our k-12 education system. In previous years, reform measures approved by the House and supported by the Republican State Superintendent failed to move in the Senate. Even minor public policy changes that have sailed through legislatures in other states — like merit pay for teachers and lifting the cap on charter schools — couldn't make it past the Senate. Schroeder was a lead cheerleader for the status quo.

While it is too early to start celebrating the possibilities, there does appear to be some "light at the end of the tunnel", and for that possibility, parents and students around the State of Idaho can feel a bit of hope.

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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