

Legislative Priorities
2023

I. Legislative Priorities:

- Classified funding has been behind on the allocation for 20 years. This allocation must be addressed and moved from the current allocation to one that makes districts competitive in the job market.
- Enrollment has been the mechanism to address funding schools for the past three years, this allows for the flexibility that students and parents have come to rely on and have the ability to enroll in advanced opportunities, CTE, Job shadowing, and many other innovative educational directions. Districts are able to account for students and their educational process and creates stability in the funding of education.
- While the effort to allow districts to move onto the state insurance plan was a move in the right direction, the funding did not allow for all staff to participate. We need to make sure the funding is for all staff and that districts have the ability to move to the state insurance plan.
- Discretionary funding was not increased a single dollar. Inflation has risen over 11% and those dollars must come from levies or reserves for this year. This needs to be addressed as well as the dollars districts use to run that may decrease if Insurance dollars are made their own line item.
- Safety has always been at the forefront of district concerns, but with the changes in society and the added emphasis and security for our students, funding needs to be available for safety issues. Creating new school entrance to funding resource officers.
- Facilities are becoming an overburden for local communities to bare the entire cost. Many districts cannot even bond for the amount of a new school cost. The state needs to look at opportunities to help offset the increased cost of facilities and the burden on local taxpayers.

II. Conversational Issues:

- Vouchers / ESA bills will continue to be fought against due to the harm it will bring to public education.
- Looking at current laws that need to be stream-lined or fixed.
 - Dyslexia
 - Distribution of IRI dollars
 - Data and when it is being evaluated by the state (pull the end of the year)
 - Data collection for the CIP tool.
- Funding Formula is always a conversation that creates anxiety among districts. This conversation needs to include the standards set by the superintendents of the state and needs to be equitable to all districts. A group needs to be set up to

look at what the funding formula needs to look like. Groups made of business managers and administration.

- Financial Literacy will work if it can be added to current programs and is supported by districts.
- Mental Health must be addressed in schools. Legislation needs to be crafted that legislators feel will allow schools to work with our students and not be found offensive.
- Staff shortages are being found at all levels of education. Funding these positions at a competitive wage will help overcome this issue. (bus drivers, need to minimize standards to increase number of bus drivers)
- Understanding the SASS program implemented by the state of Idaho and having training on what the program does and the data that is to be collected. Accountability needs to include the local LEAs and local data collection.
- Policy and direction when it comes to curriculum/books, libraries, Porn, CRT