

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 49

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
3 TO APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO UNDERTAKE AND COMPLETE A STUDY OF THE SPECIFIC  
4 CHANGES NEEDED IN ORDER TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PUBLIC  
5 SCHOOL FUNDING FORMULA INTERIM COMMITTEE.

6 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 WHEREAS, in 2016, the Idaho Legislature authorized the Public School  
8 Funding Formula Interim Committee to study the public school funding for-  
9 mula, which was enacted in 1994; and

10 WHEREAS, the Public School Funding Formula Interim Committee held five  
11 meetings around the State of Idaho between July 2016 and December 2016, and  
12 it reported preliminary recommendations to the Legislature wherein it an-  
13 ticipated that its work would be a multiyear project due to the complexity of  
14 the issue of public school funding; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Idaho Legislature adopted HCR 12 to reauthorize  
16 the Public School Funding Formula Interim Committee in order to allow it to  
17 complete its study of the public school funding formula; and

18 WHEREAS, in an effort to complete its study, the committee held five  
19 meetings during the interim in which it received informative presentations  
20 from state and local stakeholders and staff, learned about Idaho's account-  
21 ability framework and the national picture of public school funding formula  
22 transitions, spending and student outcomes, and consulted with national  
23 experts specializing in the study of education finance who provided an anal-  
24 ysis of Idaho public schools funding and a national perspective of funding  
25 formula options; and

26 WHEREAS, the committee has completed its study of Idaho's public school  
27 funding formula and, based on the information it received, advises that the  
28 state's funding formula should be changed to ensure local control and trans-  
29 parency, and that it be readily comprehensible, equitable and focused on im-  
30 proving student outcomes; and

31 WHEREAS, in order to carry out these changes, the committee makes the  
32 following recommendations:

- 33 (1) Implement year five of the career ladder compensation system;
- 34 (2) Transition the Idaho public school funding formula from counting  
35 students based on average daily attendance to counting students based on en-  
36 rollment;
- 37 (3) Revise the timing, frequency and portion amounts of payment distri-  
38 butions to public school districts and charter schools;
- 39 (4) Transition the Idaho public school funding formula from a resource  
40 allocation funding formula to a student-centered funding formula that in-  
41 cludes a base funding amount per student with weights added thereto for spe-  
42 cial populations;

1 (5) Provide public schools with more spending flexibility and fewer  
2 statutorily required programs and distributions;

3 (6) Incorporate an accountability and fiscal transparency framework  
4 that focuses on student outcomes rather than on prescribed inputs; and

5 (7) Ensure that public school districts and charter schools are held  
6 financially harmless in totality of state funds during the transition pe-  
7 riod; and

8 WHEREAS, each of the committee's recommendations require careful con-  
9 sideration as to how to implement the changes to the state's public school  
10 funding formula including, but not limited to, how and when to count stu-  
11 dents based on enrollment, fractional enrollment and students who are over  
12 one enrollment count; how to address absenteeism; when, how often and in what  
13 amount payments should be distributed to public school districts and charter  
14 schools; a base funding amount per student; weights to be added to the base  
15 funding amount, the value of such weights and whether such weights should  
16 be compounded; which statutorily prescribed program distributions should  
17 be eliminated or consolidated; and the details of the accountability frame-  
18 work; and

19 WHEREAS, it is necessary to reauthorize the committee so that it can  
20 complete a study of these and other related considerations and make further  
21 recommendations for the specific changes needed to best serve Idaho public  
22 school students within the public schools funding formula framework recom-  
23 mended by the committee.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular Ses-  
25 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
26 the Senate concurring therein, that the Legislative Council is authorized to  
27 appoint a committee to undertake and complete a study of the specific changes  
28 needed in order to implement the recommendations of the Public School Fund-  
29 ing Formula Interim Committee as set forth in this concurrent resolution.  
30 The Legislative Council shall determine the number of legislators and mem-  
31 bership from each house appointed to the committee and shall authorize the  
32 committee to receive input, advice and assistance from interested and af-  
33 fected parties who are not members of the Legislature.

34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
35 and another member of the Idaho State Board of Education shall serve as non-  
36 legislative voting members of the interim committee.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Services Office, the Office  
38 of the State Board of Education including the Public Charter School Commis-  
39 sion, the State Department of Education, the Office of the Governor and the  
40 Division of Financial Management shall provide staff support to the interim  
41 committee.

42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, subject to approval from the President Pro  
43 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the  
44 cochairs of the interim committee may retain the services of consultants or  
45 analysts who are familiar with education funding policy to provide necessary  
46 economic, financial, or other research and services that assist the interim  
47 committee and the Legislature in making informed decisions. Such consul-  
48 tants or analysts may be reimbursed for per diem, mileage or other expenses  
49 and may be compensated for their work.

1           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that nonlegislative members shall not be reim-  
2 bursed from legislative funds for per diem, mileage or other expenses and  
3 shall not have voting privileges regarding the committee's recommendations  
4 or proposed legislation, except as otherwise specifically provided in this  
5 concurrent resolution.

6           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the committee shall report its findings,  
7 recommendations and proposed legislation, if any, to the First Regular Ses-  
8 sion of the Sixty-fifth Idaho Legislature.