

Testimony for Charter School Administrator SB1058

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I. The members of IASA are supportive of the current Idaho alternate routes to administrative certification built on a teacher certificate. We do not support the proposed alternate route to administrative certification in SB1058.

Increasing student achievement is the primary focus of schools. Research supports that teachers have the most influence on increasing student achievement at schools and that principals have the second most influence. Teachers in Idaho must have a teaching certificate. All school administrators must also have a teaching certificate and an administrative endorsement. For the past 10 years I have been an adjunct professor in the BSU principal preparation program with teachers from charter schools and school districts.

II. Principal Preparation Programs have the following components:

- Instructional Leadership- curriculum, assessment literacy, professional development for teachers, data analysis and technology integration
- School Management- organizational skills in the operations of the school
- Teacher Supervision- intensive training in the Danielson Framework for evaluations, hours and hours of practice observing teachers, collecting evidence and rating teachers in each component in the 4 domains: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, and Professional Responsibilities
- Legal and Ethical Issues- student and staff legal rights and responsibilities, educator ethics
- School Finance- an understanding of the state funding formula and school budgeting and application

- Special Education- principals must be able to lead and implement a successful school special education program
- Community Relations and Engagement- involving parents in the educational process
- School Safety and Security- collaborating with local law enforcement and implementing comprehensive safety/security plans and drills
- School Culture- leading and modeling a positive climate for student achievement and staff collaboration
- Internship- 250 hours with a mentor principal
- Teaching (counseling or pupil personnel)- 4 years of experience before you can be certified as an administrator

III. Principals for charter schools and school districts, with experience from other states, come to Idaho and become certificated through the current processes. We, as an association believe principals should have a teaching background before becoming a school administrator. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.