

Good afternoon. For the record, I am Blake Youde, representing the Idaho Charter School Network and I am here to comment in regard to Senate Bill 1196.

First of all, on behalf of the charter schools in Idaho, I want to thank you for the opportunity to participate in this three-year process. This is the most involved charter schools have been as a group in major education policy legislation in Idaho. *We support this as good first step. charters have long championed flexibility + local control of education. This SB is that 1st step.*
This is complex legislation, and I am sure there are changes that will need to be made before this formula is the vehicle by which public education funding is calculated and distributed. Please be assured we will continue to constructively work with you.

We all know Richard McKenna has a significant issue and needs a fix. We have another school (Elevate Academy in Caldwell) opening next year that ~~will~~ *is a CTE school intending to* serve mostly at-risk students so this fix is important.

Additionally, there are five new charter schools this year that do not have enough data yet for the modeling. We will ~~really need to~~ *report back to you whether they cause any new issues to* watch them during FY 2020 and ~~consider~~ *consider* any necessary changes before full implementation in FY 2021.

There is one section in this legislation that we believe is very important and is worthy of more discussion and build-out. *over*

Page 11, lines 1-3, state, "An LEA shall distribute the additional weighted foundation moneys allocated to it for the students identified as economically disadvantaged, ELL, gifted and talented and Special education to the school or district programs in which those students are enrolled."

That small subsection is the door to linking funding to outcomes. Directing weighted student *to funds* to the specific program serving those students will allow us to see the impact of state dollars on student achievement. This is our opportunity shift the debate away from a variety of adult issues to "how do we build a funding system that allows policymakers, school leaders, teachers, families and tax payers to see how our students are performing and then make changes where necessary to help children succeed in school." We look forward to working with you to build that accountability system.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to work with you on this important legislation. *This is a complex legislation & you are to be commended for your concerted effort to involve every group. This is a balancing act that everyone gets everything they wanted but I'm sure each group consent to their contributions*
Note: If asked about per student funding favoring charter schools:

- 173 LEAs with average per pupil average at \$8,856. 49 LEAs above average with only 15 charters above average. *to the legislation as well.*