

Testimony before Joint Education Committees

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Draft Education Funding Formula

by

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- Definition of a camel and an expert
- Idaho needs to do a better job of funding schools (40th to 49th depending on survey)
- Many districts receive in the \$5-6000 per student range, others receive over \$10,000
- Idaho lags the nation in important factors like teacher pay, per student funding, wages and our Go On rate
- Our present formula is too complex
- The new formula **won't** solve these clearly identified problems
- The new formula probably **won't** help improve student achievement
- The new formula **won't** solve that we have 115 traditional and 47 charter districts, most serving fewer than 1000 students
- Things that will help:
 - Highly qualified teachers (advanced degree, certified in their teaching area)
 - Better teacher pay (career ladders helped, need to continue & fully fund)
 - Community involvement
 - Salary based apportionment
 - Solid curriculum