

Testimony for SBFF Definitions and Reporting HB293

Rob Winslow

Idaho Association of School Administrators (superintendents, principals, special education directors in charter schools and school districts)

We support the collection of data in preparation for a student-based funding formula. Toward that end we want our data to be as accurate as possible. That said, we do have a few concerns.

1. At-risk students- Since many school districts do not have alternative schools for at-risk students, they have not identified any at-risk students.
2. Economically disadvantaged students- Students in community eligibility program schools are excluded. Districts are prohibited from collecting free or reduced-priced applications from the parents of those students. Some districts would lose up to 60% of their economically disadvantaged student count with this definition.
3. Local Salary Schedules- Currently, only the starting minimum salary R1, is required by districts and charters. This would require a minimum salary in the professional endorsement cell, P1.
4. The definitions for enrollment must be completed before data collection to ensure accuracy. (Page 6, lines 17-46)
5. Clarification for beginning dates for financial reporting. Page 7, line 34 states "Beginning in 2020." Does this mean school year 20-21?
6. Information on Page 7, lines 38-41 are already collected by the SDE.
7. Regarding the expenditure request on Page 7, lines 42-46. We already know that approximately 50% of discretionary spending is for health insurance benefits. Salaries for teachers, pupil personnel, classified, and administrators consume a large share of the remaining 50%. Fixed costs, such as utilities take up the rest of the expenditure. Many districts run supplemental levies. The moneys from the levies are co-mingled with discretionary money and other general fund revenues.

Thank you for the opportunity for input. I will stand for questions.