

MINUTES
(Subject to Approval by the Committee)
Joint Millennium Fund Committee
Tuesday, January 23, 2024
4:00 P.M.
Room EW20
Boise, Idaho

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by Co-Chairman Representative Vander Woude. A silent roll call was taken and all members were present. the Chairman walked the committee through the agenda and overview for the meeting.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield, provided an overview of the state Department of Education's plan for providing youth-focused services to Idaho's schools using the three million dollars currently appropriated to the department; this was supplemented with a handout. The overview included a discussion on installing vape detectors, surveying schools for best practices and identifying needs of schools, how to address issues with fentanyl, and for implementing pilot programs in schools. To address questions from members at the previous meeting (December 12, 2023), the Superintendent informed the committee that if additional funding was appropriated the first priority would be to add school resource officers (SRO) around the state. The Superintendent expanded on the SRO conversation by saying that funds would be to establish and stabilize these SRO positions with the intent that schools would be expected to sustain in whole or part, the funding needed to pay for those positions. Committee Members questioned the Superintendent on sustainability of SROs, oversight of funds at the school level, ensuring programs were being tracked for effectiveness, minimizing duplication of programs, and ensuring dollars were maximized for outcomes.

Committee members then discussed funding and language options for the FY 2025 recommendation to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC). At the request of the chairman, Mr. Tatro provided an overview of where the dollars were appropriated in the current year, and where the group had discussed adding dollars for FY 2025. In the current year, funds are appropriated to: the Office of the State Treasurer for investment fees; Office of the Attorney General for litigation related costs for the Master Settlement Agreement; Health and Welfare for Project Filter, tobacco compliance checks, and for Medicaid claims payments; Public Health Districts for prevention and cessation programs for youth and adults; Idaho Public Television for the KNOW Vape campaign, Department of Education for safe and drug free school programs, and for community-based recovery centers. For FY 2025, proposed options included: additional funding for Project Filter; Public Health Districts; Idaho Public Television; Idaho Drug Free Youth; and to reserve at least two million dollars on the bottom line from the Idaho Millennium Income Fund. The committee also discussed potential language to include in the recommendation to JFAC. Language included providing sideboards and an assigned agency to oversee not-for-profit organizations that receive these funds; ensuring services and programs are unique and with limited to no duplication; and for the future use of the funds. The committee was adamant that these funds should not be used for paying medicaid claims.

No decisions were made by the committee with the recommendation to be made at the next meeting in 1-2 weeks.