



For Immediate Release
February 7, 2019

Contact: Rep. Megan Blanksma
(208) 590-0703

Education Committees Will Hold Public Hearing On New Equitable School Funding Formula

Boise, Idaho – The House Republican Caucus is inviting all Idahoans to learn more about the new public school funding formula legislation. The Senate and House Education Committees will hold a joint public hearing on the funding formula, today, February 7, from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm in the Lincoln Auditorium in the Idaho Statehouse.

The legislation creates an updated, streamlined, effective, and student-centered model for Idaho's schools. "Idaho's current school funding model is out-of-date," said House Speaker Scott Bedke. "This new model will increase both flexibility and transparency for school funding."

Each school will get a set amount of money for each student, but they will get more funding for each student who needs more resources. That includes students in special education, those who are economically disadvantaged, English language learners, gifted and talented, and grades K-3 and 9-12. More funding will also be considered for especially small school districts and remote schools.

This formula is the result of three years of work from the bipartisan Public-School Funding Formula Interim Committee. The plan includes input from district leaders around the state and the Education Commission of the States. The Committee unanimously recommended the funding model.

This new model focuses on enrollment instead of attendance. So, the funding follows the students, if they change schools or districts. In fact, a "hold positive" provision also ensures

all districts and charter schools will receive a funding increase of at least two-percent per year for that period.

Any district leaders who have concerns about the district data used in the funding model can provide their most up-to-date information at psff@lso.idaho.gov. This dedicated email will also provide technical support if needed.

“This is a change that’s sorely needed,” said Bedke. “It ensures that our children get the quality education they deserve, by making sure their schools get the funding they need.”

###