



For Immediate Release
February 18, 2019

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

House Republicans Recommend More Investment in Idaho's Future Through Education Budget

BOISE, Idaho – Caucus-members in the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee approved the budget for Idaho's public schools today. The \$2.2 billion budget would be a six percent increase in funding for public schools in grades kindergarten through 12th grade.

"It's a sensible investment in Idaho's future through our children," said JFAC Co-Chair Rep. Rick Youngblood. "We worked for weeks before this morning's votes to make sure we were responsible stewards of Idaho's tax dollars."

The budget funds the fifth and final year of a program that has, and will continue to, boost teacher pay. It also gives administrators and staff a raise, along with paying for Gov. Brad Little's literary proficiency program. The budget also increases discretionary funding by almost \$1,000 per classroom.

"This budget will help us continue to attract and retain great teachers," said Rep. Youngblood. "It will make sure all of our young readers get off on the right foot. And, it gives each school district more local control through flexible funding."

This would be for fiscal year 2020. The group of seven bills passed unanimously. They must now pass the House and Senate, and be approved by Governor Little.

###