

2026 ISBA RESOLUTION NO. 16 (Proposed)

ALIGNING IDAHO'S SCHOOL AGE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY REQUIREMENTS

WHEREAS, Idaho's high school graduation requirements include student participation in a college entrance exam and the state provides entrance exams free of charge in the spring of the student's 11th grade or junior year, when most students are older than 16 years; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's formula for determining graduation rates for high school accountability is based on four-year cohorts, including two years when most public school students are older than 16; and

WHEREAS, Idaho high schools are accountable for reaching at least a 90 percent graduation goal; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's high schools are accountable for college and career readiness as measured by student participation in advanced opportunities courses; including Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, International Baccalaureate, and career technical courses completed by the 12th grade or senior year; when most students are 17 years or older; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's high schools are accountable for college and career readiness as measured by students acquiring industry recognized professional or technical certifications which are completed in the 12th grade or senior year, when most students are 17 years or older; and

WHEREAS, Idaho has not amended its school age requirements to align with its expectations of student achievement in public education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association shall draft legislation to align Idaho Code Section 33-202, Idaho Code, with the state's accountability requirements for public schools by changing the required school age from 16 to 18, unless the pupil has graduated early or has received their GED.

Statement of Purpose

Idaho's accountability measures for high schools rely upon students completing academic requirements, participating in college level work, and mastering industry level skills during a four-year window. Two of those four years occur in the final two years of high school, when most students are older than 16. Section 33-202, Idaho Code, should be amended to support state accountability expectations for schools by changing the required school age from 16 to 18, unless the pupil has graduated early or has received their GED.

Supporting Data and Information:

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/assessment/accountability/files/accountabilityresults/2018/Graduation-Rate.pdf>

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Submitted by Caldwell School District

ISBA Executive Board Recommendation: NO RECOMMENDATION (NEUTRAL)

Kristin Galbraith, ISBA Region 6 Chair, will present the Executive Board recommendation at the business session.

“The ISBA Executive Board understands and sees the issue with being assessed by metrics such as graduation rates while no legal framework exists to maintain enrollment for children over the age of 16 who decide to drop-out. This resolution has passed the membership several times, but has not solicited any legislative support, which is the reason for the neutral recommendation. The neutral recommendation provides the sponsors the ability to make their case to the membership during the business session as to why this should be a continued focus of the ISBA staff during the legislative session.”