

Legislative Representative Report for March 9, 2026

Information from the Day on the Hill

- Add FindHelpIdaho.org on the front page of the district website. They provide free services for schools, teachers, and parents.
- 94% of students attend public schools
- **HB624 - IDLA** – Launch Program and Driver’s Education cut – Still in House Education Committee
- IDLA – Students can take only 3 courses during the school year. Summer is not limited.
- IDLA – Some courses will be available at a cost of \$427 per course possibly paid for by the school.
- IDLA – Advanced Opportunity Funds can only pay for IDLA or dual credit but not both
- With cuts to IDLA it will be difficult for rural school students to earn an AA.
- **HJM 11 – Special Education Funding to Congress**. Education funding for special education – asks federal government to meet their promise of funding 40% of the cost for special education. Senator Zito, Representative Thompson, and Representative Beiswenger voted NO on this House Joint Memorial – This passed both chambers.
- **SB 1317 – Education – Regional Service Centers** – proposed for rural school districts to share Speech Language Pathologist, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, School Psychologists, etc.– one time \$1 million to startup. Senate Floor
- Many services and departments will have their budgets cut 4% this school year and 5% or more for the 2026-2027 school year.
- **House Bill 711** would create two “**nontraditional pathways**” for non-certified applicants to become **public school superintendents and principals**:
 - The “grow your own” pathway is designed for educators who have at least five years of experience but require leadership development.

- The “executive leadership” pathway would allow military leaders, private sector executives, nonprofit leaders and government officials without education experience to become administrators. Cleared the House now in the Senate
- **House Bill 623 (Required Moment of Silence)** would require schools to set aside 60 seconds each morning to allow students to “reflect, meditate, pray, or engage in another silent activity.” Teachers would not be allowed to direct the way students spend the silent period. Passed House and now in Senate Ed Committee.
- **House Bill 731** House adopts **federal school choice** program funding.
- **House Bill 599** would switch to a needs-based distribution model for **digital content grant awards**
- **House Bill 762 – Public Charter School Admissions** – would allow military children to be moved to the third on the list of students that can be given priority on waitlists. **Passed the House.**
- **House Bill 634 – Binding Allocations – died in House**
- **HJR9 Compulsory Attendance** is on the House Floor
- **SB 1223a – Disclosures in Hiring – Districts only must publicize the top candidate. LAW**
- **HB 515 Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment Notification and Reporting** – Awaiting Governor’s Signature
- **HJR 7 – Blaine Amendment Repeal – Failed on House Floor**
- **HB 710 Start Date after Labor Day – Died in House Ed**
- **HB 728 - Definitions of School Staff for Placement** - Instructional Coaches would be defined as administrators. **This is being amended – House Floor**
- **HB 740 – Endowment Money Special Distribution** – give the funds upfront to districts in September instead of through the school funding formula. Awaiting hearing in **House Education.**
- 1. **HB 745 – Teachers Unions – Under the bill, public school districts would be prohibited from:**
 - a. **Deducting union dues from paychecks.**

- b. **Covering union dues in employee wages.**
- c. **Providing personal information about employees, including contact information, to the union.**
- d. **Requiring employees to meet with union representatives.**
- e. **Communicating on behalf of the union.**
- f. **Offering employees paid leave for union activities – although the union could still reimburse districts for paid leave, as it does now, or employees could use their own sick leave or paid time off.**
- g. **Passed the House**

- **SB 1288 – High Needs Fund** – One time funding. Schools could apply for funds once the district has spent around \$30,000 for the needs of a student. **Senator Zito voted NO. Sent to the House Ed. Committee.**
- **SB 1290 PROM Act** – Held in Senate Education
- **SB 1336 – Civic Requirements** – lots of curriculum mandates -8th graders take western civilization in 2030.
- **SB 1339 – Strategic Plan – replaces Continuous Improvement Plan – growth of student outcome by locally set objects. October 1, 2027. Four-year Strategic Performance Plan.**
- **SCR 121 – School Funding Formula** – Bring a draft to the next legislative session.
- **HB 779 – Student Enrollment Counts** – parents consented to child being enrolled
- **HB 780 Dual Enrollment for “Non-Academic Activities”** – weakens the academic eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities for home school students. School Choice students can get HB 93 funds and still participate in Non-Academic Activities.
- **HB 784 – Recess Mandate** – 20 min. for K-5. Can’t withhold recess unless behavior occurred during recess.
- **HB 785 – Inappropriate Online Behavior** – students can be disciplined for inappropriate online behavior toward any school employee or volunteer.

Senate Education sails through three House-passed bills

In other action Tuesday, Senate Education quickly and unanimously passed a trio of House-passed bills.

School facilities fund. [House Bill 608](#) would remove one requirement for schools hoping to use money from the state's \$50.5 million Public School Facilities Cooperative Fund. As the law now stands, districts must rerun an unsuccessful bond issue before applying for a share of the money. This bill would allow any district to apply for the fund, as long as it has run a bond issue within the past two years. [On the Governor's Desk](#)

Educator investigations. [House Bill 635](#) would require the state's Professional Standards Commission to turn over any evidence of criminal behavior to law enforcement. The PSC, a volunteer administrative board, has the authority to approve, suspend and revoke teaching and administrative certificates.

Property tax relief funds. [House Bill 636](#) would allow school districts to use money from a 2023 property tax law in a new way. Districts would be able to use these state funds for lease-purchase agreements — as long as they have used previous state payments to retire bonds and levies, as the law now requires. Senate Floor