

2026 ISBA RESOLUTION NO.3 (Proposed)

SUPPORT FOR CHANGES IN FEDERAL FUNDING

WHEREAS, school districts across Idaho are tasked with meeting a wide range of student needs that go beyond traditional classroom instruction, including afterschool care, academic support, nutrition, mental health, and family engagement; and

WHEREAS, established federal programs like the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) and the Community Schools model have a proven record of helping meet these needs in Idaho communities, especially in rural and high-poverty areas; and

WHEREAS, local school districts who have these approved grants are already equipped with the infrastructure, staffing, and relationships to successfully implement and sustain these programs, provided funding is accessible and streamlined; and

WHEREAS, requiring third-party intermediaries or outside organizations to administer federal grants intended for school-based programs can create unnecessary barriers, inefficiencies, and additional administrative burdens for school districts; and

WHEREAS, should the U.S. Department of Education be dissolved, all federal funds may flow directly to the state; and

WHEREAS, additional layers of bureaucracy could be added above and beyond existing federal fund requirements creating additional burdens for schools working to meet the needs of their students; and

WHEREAS, allowing federal grant dollars approved for existing programs to flow directly through to local school districts to manage and operate these programs ensures greater transparency, accountability, and alignment with local priorities and needs; and

WHEREAS, all Idaho public schools are under the purview of the State Board of Education and are governed by school board members who have the greatest understanding of the needs of their students and how federal funds should be used to support them.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association supports federal and state policies that prioritize the direct flow-through of federal grant funds—such as those supporting the 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Community Schools programs—directly to Idaho public school districts and education service providers that demonstrate capacity, readiness, and success in serving students and families; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association supports changes to other federal fund sources – such as funds supporting special education

students – directing them to the State Board of Education and then immediately to each school district; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the ISBA urges the Idaho State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and Idaho’s congressional delegation to advocate for grant structures that recognize and empower local school districts as the primary, qualified agents for delivering these critical services to students and for policies that ensure governing bodies closest to Idaho students are directing federal funds approved by congress.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this resolution is to advocate for federal and state policies that direct grant funding for programs such as 21st Century Community Learning Centers and Community Schools to flow directly to Idaho public schools. These programs address essential student needs beyond classroom instruction, including afterschool care, academic support, mental health, nutrition, and family engagement. School districts and charters already have the infrastructure, staff, and community relationships to effectively operate these programs, and direct funding increases efficiency, transparency, and alignment with local priorities. In addition, this resolution calls for federal funds to be shifted to the State Board of Education and immediately sent to the school districts and charter schools. For grants, removing the requirement for third-party administration will reduce barriers and ensure resources are used effectively to benefit students and families, particularly in rural and high-needs communities. For other federal fund sources, removing additional legislative bureaucracy ensures that federal funds are directed to the governing bodies closest to the students those funds intend to serve.

**Submitted by Marsing School District
ISBA Executive Board**

ISBA Executive Board Recommendation: DO PASS

Anne Ritter, ISBA Region 9 Chair, will present the Executive Board recommendation at the business session.

“As school leaders await decisions from Congress regarding changes to federal funding and the U.S. Department of Education, this resolution serves as a position statement that Idaho school leaders believe that any approved grants should flow directly to the school district or charter school, while formula federal funds should flow to the appropriate State Education Agency and then transmitted immediately to the school district or charter school to avoid overregulation and additional layers of bureaucracy.”