

2025 PROPOSED ISBA RESOLUTION

REPLACING A REVOLVING LOAN GRANT FUND FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES FOR A NEEDS-BASED GRANT

WHEREAS, In 2024, the Idaho Legislature created a unique bonding program for school districts to receive either a 10-year lump sum or annualized appropriation for facility improvements;

WHEREAS, Because it was distributed on Average Daily Attendance (ADA) many small, rural school districts around the State of Idaho will continue to struggle to raise funding to address critical capital improvement projects; and

WHEREAS, Funds from the Idaho State Lottery Fund only provided a small percentage of facilities funding needed to address mandated expenditure and are now distributed through property tax relief, removing the only routine maintenance dollars for school districts; and

WHEREAS, The majority of school districts in the state already run supplemental levies to pay for basic school district operations and unfunded mandates, making it difficult to simultaneously run a facilities levy, not to mention a passage of a bond requires 2/3 majority; and

WHEREAS, Idaho Code [33-1017](#) (School Safety and Health Revolving Loan and Grant Fund) was a grant program that became law in 2000 and the original intent allowed a district to apply for funding to repair facilities if they had exhausted their levy capacity and declared a financial emergency, and does not appear to receive any appropriation

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Idaho School Boards Association work with the Idaho State Legislature to revise and expand what used to be known as the “School Safety and Health Revolving Loan and Grant Fund” that would distribute moneys to school districts and charter schools based on needs. The purpose could be for financing of construction, remodel, and maintenance of school facilities. The application could include a detailed plan for the facility project, details concerning the facilities current condition, projected costs related to the project, the estimated bond request including previous requests, and a statement of financial condition. The fund could gain up to \$25 million in appropriate, and preference shall be given to school districts who receive less than \$5 million in a 10-year period.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Despite significant investments from the Idaho State Legislature, many school districts will struggle to repair or replace their aging school buildings. Replacing this outdated revolving loan grant fund with one that distributes funds based on need, and prioritizes small, rural school districts, is a more equitable and reasonable way to ensure rural schools can provide safe and adequate facilities for Idaho students.

Submitted by West Bonner School District No. 83