BLUUM
LET LEARNING GROW

Public School Funding Formula Committee| August 14, 2017

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About Bluum

Bluum is a non-profit organization committed to creating 20,000 new, high-performing school seats in Idaho in 10 years. Since 2013 we've worked with school leaders to launch 6,000 new seats, and have allocated more than $12.8 million in direct grant support to a dozen schools.

We've worked with the nonprofit Building Hope and private lenders Banner Bank, Idaho Central Credit Union and Vectra Bank to facilitate $45 million worth of new school construction in Pocatello, Boise, Garden City, Nampa, Meridian, Garden City and Idaho Falls.

Current New School Partners

School	Location	Type	New seats	Grant $
Upper Carmen Charter	Salmon	Charter	45	$123,015
Grace Lutheran	Pocatello	Private	300	$250,000
North Idaho STEM	Rathdrum	Charter	372	$450,000
Sage International	Boise	Charter	530	$750,000
Pathways in Education	Nampa	Charter	300	$775,000
Alturas Intl. Academy	Idaho Falls	Charter	538	$1 million
Treasure Valley L.A.	Nampa	Innovation	600	$1 million
Compass Charter School	Meridian	Charter	478	$1.1 million
St. Ignatius Catholic	Meridian	Private	488	$1.2 million
Idaho Arts	Nampa	Charter	582	$1.5 million
GEM Prep	Pocatello, Nampa, Meridian	Charter	1,786	$4.6 million

Early Lessons

- Per pupil funding varies significantly by zip code
- Per pupil funding varies significantly by public school type (e.g. public district & public charter)
- Idaho's funding system is inequitable: no correlation between per pupil funding and student need/demographics
- Little correlation between spending and outcomes

School Name	Per Pupil $	FRL	% White	SAT Composite	ISAT Math	ISAT English
Boise HS	$8,044	21%	83.7%	1114	62%	79%
Salmon HS	$6,476	48%	93.7%	1024	26%	53%
Blackfoot HS	$6,100	44%	66.5%	959	19%	43%
Nampa HS	$5,734	57%	62.7%	933	18%	59%
Idaho Falls HS	$5,679	30%	75.6%	1037	33%	61%
Sage Intl. Charter	$5,407	19%	83.4%	1143	66%	79%

All data is courtesy Idaho Ed Trends: http://www.idahoedtrends.org/

Other Lessons

- Idaho has the worst of both worlds when it comes to school funding – low per pupil funding and up to 25 highly regulated funding silos that drive and limit how dollars can be spent. (See also lengthy Data Acquisition Calendar, Idaho Education Code and IDAPA rules.)

- Idaho's performance data is not timely and hard to access because of a cumbersome regulatory apparatus (who is in fact in charge – ISBE, ISDE and/or Idaho Data Management Council?)

- Despite challenges and constraints Idaho has a decent ROI when it comes to public education (e.g. 2nd lowest per pupil funding and just about average national academic outcomes)

National comparison data is courtesy Education Week:
http://www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2017/2017-state-education-grades-map.html?intc=EW-QC17-LFTNAV

Student-Based Budgeting Allocates State Funding According to Student Needs

Prerequisites for an effective student-based budgeting (SBB) system:

- Accurate historical financial data

- Accurate historical student demographics

- Accountability system focused on student outcomes

In a student-based budgeting system:

- Funding follows students to the schools they attend

- Funding a district or school receives reflects educational needs of its students

Advantages of SBB

SBB improves **funding equity**, as well as:

- **Efficiency**: Funding directed to where most needed

- **Transparency:** Formulas clearly indicate how dollars are allocated; policymakers can evaluate and adjust as needed

- **Flexibility:** Frees districts from spending on a particular basket of education goods; encourages spending as needed to best to meet student needs

- **Innovation:** In turn, greater flexibility spurs innovation

Advantages of SBB

Seat Time (ADA)

- Current (major) funding inputs: enrollment, attendance, staff characteristics

- Input focus – funds in controlled silos reporting/compliance is about how the funds are spent

- Teacher/student ratio & seat time drives funding

- Legislature decides school activities and how much of each activity by relative funding value

Student Based

- Major funding inputs: enrollment, student characteristics

- Outcome focus – funds are provided based on need and desired outcomes

- Student needs drives funding

- School leaders decide on how to best serve their distinct school population

Simulator Time

Simulator variables:

1. Funding streams
2. Equalize or not, if so, how
3. Increase or decrease state-wide budget
4. Set a base funding amount per pupil
5. Choose student characteristic weights
6. Kindergarten funding choices
7. Address small districts

Simulator Time

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PUBLIC IMPACT

Idaho Student-Based Budgeting (SBB) Simulator

Step 1. Choose which funding streams to include in the formula.

Place an "X" in the green cells next to any state funding stream you want to allocate through the SBB formula. The gray cells indicate the amount of funding included in the SBB formula and the percentage of all state funding that the selected streams comprise.

Funding Stream	Include in SBB Formula?
Base Support	X
Transportation	
Exceptional Child Support	X
Border Tuition Support	
Tuition Equivalency	
Base Support - Benefits	X
Other State Support	X
Driver Education Program	
Professional Technical Program	X
Lottery/Additional State Maintenance	
Revenue in Lieu of/Ag Equip. Taxes	
Other State Revenue	X
Amount of funding available for SBB formula	**$1,456,372,698**
Percent of all state funding	**94%**

THANK YOU & QUESTIONS

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