



House of Representatives State of Idaho

March 10, 2022

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee
Senator Mark Harris and Representative Ilana Rubel

Re: Request for OPE Evaluation

Idaho Code 33-1004 deals with the staff allowances for our K-12 public schools. This section of code was first codified in 1994. With the changing technology and mandatory expectations on our K-12 schools it is appropriate that we review this chapter of Idaho Code to evaluate if the staff allowances and related appropriation amounts have kept pace with the changing staffing demands of our public schools.

The Foundation Program that determines apportionment of school funding has relied on a unit-based funding formula for several decades. As part of that funding formula, staff allowances include the numbers of staff and a corresponding funding appropriation. Time and experience teach us that technology and teaching delivery methods have evolved over the past 30 years. An evaluation of these allowances will provide the information to determine if future adjustments are justified.

School leaders remind us of the changes over the past 20-30 years, limits on classified staff allowance, has reached a critical imbalance. Classified staffs today include Information technology professionals and growing demands on school business managers.

It would be beneficial to have comparative information on such items as:

- Changes in the job classifications over the past 30 years
- Competitive Comparisons of compensation for various classifications
- National Comparisons of State Funding for comparative positions.
- Potential Fiscal Costs for any changes needed to bring Idaho to a national norm.
- Idaho Classified Positions by category of job description
- Noted LEA sharing of resources within regions or state.
- Efficiencies that may be gained with shared resources.
- District Funded Job Descriptions and Salary/Pay ranges for Classified Staff

This report may guide future changes in the Foundation Program Staff Allowances and improved efficiencies that may be addressed in any future evaluation of the Foundation Funding Formula.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lance Clow".

Representative Lance Clow