Public Schools Appropriation (K-12)

For FY 2020, the Legislature appropriated $113 million in additional new General Fund dollars over the current year appropriation, which equates to a 6.3% increase. The new funding includes the following highlights:

- Teachers:
  - Adds a $49.7 million increase from the General Fund to fully fund year five of the five-year phase-in of the career ladder compensation system for Idaho's educational instructors.
  - House Bill 153 increases the minimum starting teacher pay in FY 2020 to $38,500 and in FY 2021 to $40,000. The fiscal impact of that legislation for FY 2020 is $3,796,200 from the General Fund.
- Adds $7.3 million for a 3% base salary increase for administrators and classified staff, which are categories of employees not on the career ladder.
- Adds $21.8 million in discretionary funding. Of this amount, $7.2 million is needed to maintain the current year funding per support unit at $27,481, and $14.6 million is included to increase the discretionary amount to $28,416 per support unit for FY 2020. This equates to a 3.4% increase in discretionary funding over FY 2019, and includes funding for health insurance costs and other general operations at the districts and charter schools.
- Fully funds the Governor's K - 3 literacy initiative recommendation at $13.1 million for FY 2020.
- There are additional increases and decreases in several other distributions that net to a $113.14 million General Fund increase over the current year. The FY 2019 appropriation was based on 15,339 full-term support units and the FY 2020 appropriation is based on a projected 15,601 full-term support units, which is a 1.7% increase year-over-year.