

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENCOURAGING SUPPORT FOR EX-
3 ISTING AND NEW INNOVATIVE PRACTICES AND APPROACHES TO PUBLIC
4 EDUCATION IN A TIME OF ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY.

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, Idaho and the nation have entered unsettled economic times that may reduce
7 tax revenues for years to come; and

8 WHEREAS, an educated citizenry is necessary for the continuation of a republican form
9 of limited government; and

10 WHEREAS, the current economic crisis requires legislators and educators to consider
11 innovative approaches to public education that will maintain or improve current academic suc-
12 cesses while operating with fewer funds; and

13 WHEREAS, clear and concise goals give unified purpose and direction and create a more
14 efficient public education system; and

15 WHEREAS, a cost-effective and quality education system requires active cooperation
16 among parents, teachers and students.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Session of
18 the Sixtieth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and the Senate concurring therein,
19 that we:

20 (1) Encourage the Idaho Department of Education and the Idaho State Board of Educa-
21 tion to implement strategies that will make public schools more efficient, allowing education to
22 continue improving while expending less money;

23 (2) Support efforts that ensure as much appropriated money as possible reaches the class-
24 room where it best serves teachers and students;

25 (3) Seek to boost student academic achievement by empowering parents and students
26 with increased choices and options; and

27 (4) Endorse an increase in school district flexibility and discretionary funding.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature of the State of Idaho encourages sup-
29 port for existing innovative school practices and for the consideration of new ideas including,
30 but not limited to:

31 (1) Grade accelerating exit exams to encourage hardworking students who have demon-
32 strated the academic readiness to move ahead in subject matter or grade level;

33 (2) Early graduation for students who have demonstrated that they are college ready, and
34 further allow a portion of the money that would have been expended at a lower grade level to
35 follow students to their next level of education;

36 (3) The exploration of other innovations that lead to greater student academic achieve-
37 ment and school improvement; and

38 (4) The strengthening of programs to ensure every student graduates with a marketable
39 skill.