

**From:** Karen Echeverria  
**To:** [Senator Chuck Winder](#); [Representative Wendy Horman](#); [Senator Dean Mortimer](#); [Representative Scott Bedke](#); [Senator Clifford Bayer](#); [Representative Julie Van Orden](#); [Senator Lori Den Hartog](#); [Representative Sage Dixon](#); [Senator Janie Ward-Engelking](#); [Representative John McCrostie](#); [Sherri Ybarra](#); [board@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:board@osbe.idaho.gov)  
**Cc:** [Paul Headlee](#); [Brooke Brouman](#); [Robyn Lockett](#)  
**Subject:** Public School Funding Formula Committee.  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 4, 2018 2:44:50 PM

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Chairs Winder and Horman, Speaker Bedke, Senators, Representatives, Superintendent Ybarra, and President Clark:

First of all, ISBA, our officers, Executive Board, members, and staff want to thank you for your several years of service on the Public School Funding Formula Committee. We know that it has been a long and arduous task with many additional hours of your time spent working toward a resolution. We appreciate your efforts.

We realize that when decisions of this magnitude are made, not everyone will be happy. Change is hard – especially after 25 years of having the same thing. Our goal is to find the best solution possible within the parameters that are available to us.

As all of you know, ISBA has long championed local governance. We firmly believe that the closer the decision is made to the student, the better. Each school district and charter school is unique and only they can truly know what is best for the students in their local communities. With that in mind, we are pleased with the direction the Committee is currently taking.

With that said, we have one concern that we would ask you to reconsider before making your final determinations. Currently, the items being considered for exclusion are school facilities, programs outside of traditional schools/charters, unique programs, and reimbursement programs such as transportation and innovation schools. None of these items are distributed on a pro-rata basis. We understand and agree that all of these items should be excluded from the formula.

However, there is one item that is still being considered for exclusion that is currently distributed on a pro-rata basis - technology. It is the ONLY item that is distributed on a pro-rata basis that is not included in the new formula. ISBA is asking that you reconsider that decision.

We understand that there is likely a special interest group for every line item that is included in the formula who wants to have it excluded. We know there is special interest group for this line item. We respectfully disagree with their position and the reason for their position.

Once again, in the true spirit of local governance – which we believe was one of the main tenants of this Committee – ALL pro-rata items should be included in the new formula, including technology. In addition, it makes no sense that only one pro-rata distributed item should be excluded from the formula.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

*Karen*

**Karen L. Echeverria**

Executive Director

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