

# Attachment 1

## House Bill 566 – Charter School Administrator Certificate

- House Bill 566 would create a charter school administrator certificate.
- In Idaho, state law requires that all school administrators hold a certificate issued by the state board of education. (*I.C. § 33-1201*)
- Currently, the state board of education only offers (1) the standard administrator certificate, or (2) a Career Technical Administrator certificate. (*IDAPA 08.02.02.015.03*)
- But different schools have different needs, and some charter school boards of directors are asking for greater flexibility in order to choose the administrators that will be the best fit for their schools.
- For example, some charter school boards need an administrator with a business background to round out their team. Others want administrators who have had careers in particular fields like STEM, or who have experience working in schools that use particular education models, like international baccalaureate.
- This type of flexibility is especially important for communities that want to open a new charter school and use a specific education model that has already worked well in another state.

- Most other states don't require charter school administrators to have a state-issued certificate.
  - However, Idaho will not allow a school's board of directors to hire an uncertified administrator.
  - As a result, communities struggle to recruit experienced administrators who have already opened and successfully run a similar charter school in another state.
- This bill would create a charter school administrator certificate. It would allow a charter school's board of directors to hire the administrator they choose. At a minimum, the person must
    1. Have a bachelor's degree;
    2. Pass a criminal background check;
    3. Complete three credit hours in statewide framework for teacher evaluations; and
    4. Submit a letter from the board of directors stating that the board has carefully considered the administrator, has chosen to hire them, and is committed to overseeing their performance.

Charter schools are uniquely designed for greater flexibility.

- They are set up as nonprofit corporations, and their boards of directors are responsible for such things as finance and governance.

Charter schools are uniquely accountable for their performance.

- First, they must comply with the charter school statute, requirements of the state board and state department, and also with requirements set forth by their authorizers.
- Second, they are held accountable for their performance by their authorizers.
  - o Charter schools have performance certificates which set forth goals and student achievement targets. They are continually monitored by their authorizer. If a public charter school does not meet its student achievement targets, or has problems with governance or finance, its authorizer can place conditions on its renewal, or even close the school.
- Finally, they are accountable for their performance to the parents who make a choice to send their children to the school.

Again, to be clear, holding or hiring somebody with a charter school administrator certificate would be voluntary.

- Charter school boards could decide to hire an administrator with a traditional administrator certificate.

Finally, this is not a comment on the value of a traditional administrator certificate, or a suggestion that those who hold a traditional administrator certificate are somehow less than.

- This simply provides another choice for those boards of directors that need something different, to get the best outcomes for kids.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the current administrator certification requirements?
  - a. A valid teaching certificate;
  - b. 4 years of teaching experience;
  - c. a master's degree for principals or a doctorate degree for superintendents;
  - d. An administrative internship or administrative experience; and

e. Verification of completion of a state-approved program

i. of at least 30 semester credit hours, 45 quarter credit hours of graduate study in school administration for the preparation of school principals or superintendents, including competencies of the Idaho Foundation Standards for School Administrators in the areas of (i) school climate, (ii) collaborative leadership, and (iii) instructional leadership.

f. And an institutional recommendation.

2. Could an administrator leave a charter school and use this certification to work at a traditional public school?

a. No. This does not change the requirements for being an administrator at a traditional school. This certificate applies only to charter schools, which is why its specifically in the charter school statute (Chapter 52) and specifies that this is distinct from the traditional school certification, which is in chapter 12.

b. Also, the state board of education actually creates certificates through rule, and the rule would only apply to charter schools.

3. What happens in other states?

- a. 44 states have charter schools. We've managed to track down information on 37 of them. Of those, only 8 other states require charter school administrators to be certified.
  - i. Red states like: Colorado, Utah, Indiana, Texas, Minnesota do not require charter school administrators to have a state certificate
  - ii. Even deep blue states like Mass, Illinois, California don't require charter school administrators to have a state certificate.
  
- 4. Does this require charter schools to only hire people with this certificate?
  - a. No. Charter school administrators could continue to hold a traditional administrator certificate.
  
- 5. Why can't traditional public schools also have this.
  - a. Why not?!