

## **Testimony for Charter School Administrator HB566**

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**Idaho Association of School Administrators** (superintendents, principals, special education directors in charter schools and school districts)

**I. The members of IASA are supportive of the current Idaho alternate routes to administrative certification built on a teacher certificate. We do not support the proposed alternate route to administrative certification in HB566.**

Increasing student achievement is the primary focus of schools. Research supports that teachers have the most influence on increasing student achievement at schools and that principals have the second most influence. Teachers in Idaho must have a teaching certificate. All school administrators must also have a teaching certificate and an administrative endorsement. For the past 9 years I have been an adjunct professor in the BSU principal preparation program with teachers from charter schools and school districts.

**II. Principal Preparation Programs have the following components:**

- Instructional Leadership- curriculum, assessment literacy, professional development for teachers, data analysis and technology integration
- School Management- organizational skills in the operations of the school
- Teacher Supervision- intensive training in the Danielson Framework for evaluations, hours and hours of practice observing teachers, collecting evidence and rating teachers in each component in the 4 domains: Planning and Preparation, Classroom Environment, Instruction, and Professional Responsibilities
- Legal and Ethical Issues- student and staff legal rights and responsibilities, educator ethics
- School Finance- an understanding of the state funding formula and school budgeting and application

- Special Education- principals must be able to lead and implement a successful school special education program
- Community Relations and Engagement- involving parents in the educational process
- School Safety and Security- collaborating with local law enforcement and implementing comprehensive safety/security plans and drills
- School Culture- leading and modeling a positive climate for student achievement and staff collaboration
- Internship- 250 hours with a mentor principal
- Teaching (counseling or pupil personnel)- 4 years of experience before you can be certified as an administrator

### III. **IASA is Supportive of Charter School Administrators**

- Charter school administrators are only required to have a principal endorsement and not a superintendent endorsement, even though running a charter is very similar to being a superintendent. Most charter school administrators by necessity attend superintendent regional meetings instead of principal meetings to assist them in their school operations.
- This flexibility can leave charter school administrators without a strong understanding in school finance and facility management.
- I do not want to constrict this flexibility. I have spoken with Tamara Baysinger, Director of the Idaho Public School Charter School Commission and Terry Ryan, CEO of the Idaho Charter School Network about offering additional training in school finance, facilities and board relations for charter school administrators. I am interested in helping all charter school administrators be successful in leading their schools and do not believe lowering the administrative requirements as outlined in HB566 will further this effort.

IV. Our public school students need and deserve effective, qualified, and well prepared principals in every school. Thank you. I stand for questions.