

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

- DATE:** Tuesday, January 29, 2019
- TIME:** 3:00 P.M.
- PLACE:** Room WW55
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Mortimer, Vice Chairman Thayn, Senators Winder, Den Hartog, Crabtree, Woodward, Lent, Buckner-Webb, and Ward-Engelking
- ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** None
- NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.
- CONVENED:** **Chairman Mortimer** called the Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:00 p.m.
- PRESENTATION:** **Paul Headlee**, Manager, Budget and Policy Division, Legislative Services Office (LSO) introduced Robyn Lockett, Principal Budget and Policy Analyst, LSO Public School Funding Formula. He also introduced, via phone conferencing, Michael Griffiths, School Finance Specialist, and Emily Parker, Policy Analyst, Education Commission of the States.
- Mr. Headlee** said they are here today to demonstrate how to navigate the Public School Funding Formula budgeting tool. He told the Committee there have been some modifications made to the original budgeting tool. The version of the model they are demonstrating has been modified with two new attributes. He announced the new version will be available online by week's end.
- Mr. Griffiths** explained the adjustments to the budget tool and demonstrated how putting different weights into the model changed the funding distributions. This provided the Committee with the ability to see how changes in weighting could impact the available funds to districts. He emphasized the model's flexibility.
- In response to questions, **Mr. Griffiths** explained the "hold harmless strategy" for school districts and the possible long-term impact. He stated there are some schools in Idaho who have unusual situations for which the model doesn't accommodate and suggested the policy writers consider this when drafting the legislation.
- Mr. Griffiths** emphasized the transition time to the new formula should be brief. Waiting too long will make it difficult to move forward into the new formula. He suggested flexibility in setting and adjusting the funding formula, especially regarding federal funding categories and other unique attendance situations. He reminded the Committee that the new funding formula is designed on a per pupil basis. **Mr. Griffiths** addressed the factoring of school district wealth categories and the implications for districts that depend on levy funding for operations.
- Mr. Headlee** reminded the Committee that the current Pubic School Funding Formula was implemented in 1994 and adjustments were made to make it viable for the school districts.

**Chairman Mortimer** said the Public School Funding Formula legislative draft is being worked on. He hopes it will be available in the near future for Committee members and stakeholders to review and bring forth their concerns and possible suggestions. He emphasized the need to consider many things before the final draft is completed and ready for a hearing.

**Chairman Mortimer** thanked the presenters for helping the Committee better understand the workings of the budgeting tool.

**RECORDING  
LINK:**

To hear the complete Public School Funding Formula budgeting tool presentation, go to: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2019/standingcommittees/SEDU/>.

**ADJOURNED:**

There being no further business at this time, **Chairman Mortimer** adjourned the meeting at 4:29 p.m.

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Senator Dean M. Mortimer  
Chair

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LeAnn Mohr  
Secretary