

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS28321 / H0062

This legislation, the Empower Parents in Education Act, would create the Nation's most expansive education spending account program. The average family would be able to use approximately \$4,200 on the education they want for their children.

The act would also level the playing field for public schools by maintaining or increasing per pupil funding in nearly 95% of all public school districts in the state of Idaho. It would maintain or increase the per pupil funding level for over 85% of all public school students. School districts that see their staff regularly leaving to other more wealthy districts would have options to be creative in ways to retain their staff.

The act allows dollars to follow students so parents could choose the education opportunities that work best for their children. All laws that would prevent the full implementation of the program would be void. This bill creates the maximum amount of flexibility for parents, students, and schools.

The Empower Parents in Education Act would be a gold standard in school choice. When parents are empowered, children win.

FISCAL NOTE

This legislation would have no impact on the General Fund. This bill redistributes existing state K-12 education appropriations. Federal funds for public schools are not implicated. Using proposed FY22 budget as a basis, about 95% of all public school districts and all charter schools would see the same or some level of increase in per pupil funding. This legislation does not obligate any additional funding from the state, but more efficiently and effectively leverages Idaho's existing public education general fund education appropriation through a revised funding formula that incorporates education choice. While current data does not exist on the number of non-public schools students in Idaho, using 8% of all students choosing non-public schools as a basis, about \$72 million in funds would be available to students who choose to attend private schools.

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DISCLAIMER: This statement of purpose and fiscal note are a mere attachment to this bill and prepared by a proponent of the bill. It is neither intended as an expression of legislative intent nor intended for any use outside of the legislative process, including judicial review (Joint Rule 18).