

GOVERNOR'S COPY

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BRAD LITTLE

GOVERNOR

March 30, 2022

The Honorable Scott Bedke
Speaker of the House
Idaho House of Representatives
Hand Delivered

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I hereby advise you that I have returned without my approval, disapproved, and vetoed, the following House bill, to wit:

HOUSE BILL 723aaS

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 10:45 a.m. on March 24, 2022.

Added investments in education have been a bright spot of this legislative session. Together, we passed the single largest increase in education funding in state history with targeted investments in teacher pay, health insurance benefits, increases in classified staff salaries, and K-3 literacy. Combined, these efforts added nearly \$300 million for public schools on top of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) funds that school districts continue to access.

The past two years, I have approved a temporary rule adopted by the State Board of Education, substituting enrollment for average daily attendance. Each time this rule was adopted, it was designed to address known funding challenges that schools were facing due to a large drop in daily attendance created by the pandemic – often by 15-percent or more.

I am supportive of the State Board reviewing the data with school administrators this fall and promulgating a temporary rule to maintain enrollment funding for the upcoming school year. My preference is not to commit to this change in advance of such data for the following year. In anticipation of such rule this fall, I have signed House Bill 807 to provide the stability and resources that school districts need this year.

I am committed to additional education resources in the out years. There are many areas to address. A new funding formula is one area to explore, but I also want to continue exploring opportunities to increase pay and benefits and improve facilities, among others. All these options should be on the table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho