

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 623

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

AN ACT

1 RELATING TO EDUCATION; AMENDING CHAPTER 16, TITLE 33, IDAHO CODE, BY THE  
2 ADDITION OF A NEW SECTION 33-1639, IDAHO CODE, TO REQUIRE IDAHO PUBLIC  
3 SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE FOR A DAILY MOMENT OF SILENCE; AND DECLARING AN EMER-  
4 GENCY AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.  
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6 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

7 SECTION 1. That Chapter 16, Title 33, Idaho Code, be, and the same is  
8 hereby amended by the addition thereto of a NEW SECTION, to be known and des-  
9 ignated as Section 33-1639, Idaho Code, and to read as follows:

10 33-1639. MOMENT OF SILENCE IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. (1) At or near the begin-  
11 ning of each school day, in all grades and in all Idaho public schools, teach-  
12 ers or school employees in charge of classrooms shall provide for a brief pe-  
13 riod of silence for a minimum of sixty (60) seconds with the participation of  
14 every pupil in the classroom. During such period, a student may, without in-  
15 terfering with or distracting another student, reflect, meditate, pray, or  
16 engage in another silent activity. During the period of silence, no other  
17 activities shall take place.

18 (2) Teachers or school employees shall require all pupils to remain  
19 silent and to make no distracting display so that each pupil may, in the ex-  
20 ercise of the pupil's individual choice, reflect, meditate, pray, or engage  
21 in any other silent activity that does not interfere with, distract from, or  
22 impede other pupils' exercise of individual choice.

23 (3) Public school personnel are prohibited from providing instruction  
24 to any student regarding the nature of any reflection that a student may en-  
25 gage in during the period of silence, other than as provided in this section.  
26 A public school shall provide notification to parents and legal guardians  
27 including information on the period of silence provided in this section and  
28 shall encourage parents and legal guardians to provide guidance to pupils  
29 regarding such period.

30 SECTION 2. An emergency existing therefor, which emergency is hereby  
31 declared to exist, this act shall be in full force and effect on and after  
32 July 1, 2026.