

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TIME: 9:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW41

MEMBERS: Chairman Hawkins, Vice Chairman Handy, Representatives Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, Veile, Mathias, Galaviz

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** Reps. Ehardt and Mathias

GUESTS: The sign-in sheet will be retained in the committee secretary's office; following the end of session the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Library.

MOTION: **Chairman Hawkins** called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

Rep. Sauter made a motion to approve the minutes of January 26, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Ryan Langrill, Director, Office of Performance Evaluations (OPE), explained the evaluation process.

Lauren Bailey, Principle Evaluator and Project Lead, OPE, explained the evaluation of the Idaho Home Learning Academy (IHLA), a virtual public charter school authorized by Oneida School District. She spoke about enrollment and student proficiency.

Committee members inquired about the distribution of funds, supplemental money, and student comparisons.

Christopher Shank, Senior Evaluator, OPE, spoke about student performance, enrollment, and supplemental learning funds. He recommended the Legislature develop a funding framework specific to virtual schools to better align the intended use of funding sources with actual use.

The committee discussed per student funding and comparisons, facility funding, athletics and dual enrollment.

Hailey Sweeten, Incoming Executive Director, IHLA, spoke about growth and improvement, accountability and transparency. She mentioned state regulations for student testing, virtual guidance and standards.

Committee members discussed innovation in education, state standards, budget cuts, and vulnerable students.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary