

MINUTES
SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Monday, February 02, 2026

TIME: 3:00 P.M.

PLACE: Room WW55

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chairman Cook, Senators Nichols, Carlson, Burtenshaw, Zito, Ward-Engelking, and Semmelroth

ABSENT/ EXCUSED: Chairman Lent and Senator Woodward

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: **Vice Chairman Cook** called the meeting of the Senate Education Committee (Committee) to order at 3:03 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVAL: **Senator Burtenshaw** moved to approve the Minutes of January 22, 2026. **Senator Zito** seconded the motion. The motion carried by **voice vote**.

PRESENTATION: **Dr. Spencer Barzee**, Deputy Superintendent, Idaho Department of Education and **Domineek Haag**, School Liaison Program Manager, Mountain Home School District, presented on Support for Military Families. **Ms. Haag** presented on the Purple Star School Designation, which Idaho was the 43rd state to join. The purpose of the program was to provide a supportive environment for military students. **Ms. Haag** additionally spoke about the Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3). MIC3 was designed to ensure that military-connected students were not disadvantaged by frequent moves. **Dr. Barzee** described a Penn State study from 2023 that highlighted the resources for military connected families and how Idaho has improved since Superintendent Debbie Critchfield had been in office.

DISCUSSION: **Senator Nichols** asked how many students the program had. **Dr. Barzee** responded there were about 3500 students in the program. **Vice Chairman Cook** asked if the program was only for students on the base. **Dr. Barzee** answered that it was for any student connected to a military parent.

ADJOURNED: There being no further business at this time, **Vice Chairman Cook** adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Senator Cook
Vice Chair

Lauren Young
Secretary