

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, February 05, 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:** None

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.

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

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of February 2, and February 3, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

RS 33108: **Rep. Raymond** presented **RS 33108**, proposed legislation regarding digital content and curriculum funding. This would provide funding for Local Education Agency's (LEA) based on need.

MOTION: **Rep. Garner** made a motion to introduce **RS 33108**. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

Casey Petti, Principal Evaluator, Office of Performance Evaluation (OPE), presented findings from the K-12 district characteristics and funding evaluation. He discussed district characteristics, district funding per student, and special education funding. In response to committee questions, Mr. Petti said state funding per student is set at a flat rate for districts of similar sizes and does not increase for districts with more high needs students. He provided information about Charter School reports, district size, support unit funding, and medicaid.

HJM 11: **Rep. Fuhriman** presented **HJM 11**, legislation regarding education funding, disabilities. The purpose of this resolution is to call upon Congress to honor its long-standing statutory commitment to fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) at the promised forty percent level.

Chynna Hirasaki, Administrator of Special Education, Boise School District, testified **in support of HJM 11**. She spoke about increased needs and the gap in IDEA funding. In response to committee member questions, she said modern identification testing, awareness, and early intervention have increased needs. She addressed autism and Special Education eligibility.

Julie Mead, Caldwell School District, testified **in support of HJM 11**. She said their isn't additional incentives for districts and emphasized providing needs for the full spectrum of students with special needs.

Kevin Field, Special Needs Teacher, Idaho Falls, testified **in support of HJM 11**. He highlighted population growth and an increase in special needs students. In response to committee questions he discussed awareness, behavioral issues, communication difficulties, and needs which haven't been met. He explained behavioral needs and natural disabilities protocol.

Stoney Winston, Superintendent, Fruitland School District, testified **in support** of **HJM 11**. He spoke about a shortfall in funding, mandated services, and federal law. He mentioned teaching life skills to help students be productive.

Rep. Fuhriman closed by saying this is a message to the federal government, to provide funding.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to send **HJM 11** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members voiced concerns of possible reactions to the memorial which could reduce the threshold.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Hawkins** called for a vote on the motion to send **HJM 11** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Fuhriman** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary