

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2026

TIME: 8:30 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 8:30 am.

HJM 20: **Rep. Tanner (13)** presented **HJM 20**, legislation regarding federal funding. Idaho is required to offer free public K-12 education to every student regardless of immigration status. This memorial is calling on Congress to fully reimburse Idaho to compensate for this requirement.

Committee members discussed contributions of undocumented immigrants, unfunded federal mandates, Congress fulfillment, and federal government over reach. The discussion included Supreme Court decisions, laws made by Congress, and calling out a vulnerable population.

MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made a motion to send **HJM 20** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

**ROLL CALL
VOTE:** Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE, 3 NAY, and 1 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Hawkins, Handy, Mendive, Wisniewski, Garner, Sauter, Marmon, Pickett, Hostetler, and Veile. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Nelsen, Mathias, and Galaviz. Rep. Ehardt was absent/excused. Rep. Tanner (13)** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

H 883: **Rep. Pickett** presented **H 883**, legislation to grant high-performing public charter schools and school districts greater flexibility in the use of state funds. He explained joint funding flexibility, subsequent levies, and requirements.

The committee discussed benchmark differences for charter schools and school districts, salaries, and accountability.

Emily McClure, Idaho Charter School Network, explained qualifications for charter schools and school districts. She said charter schools have an authorizer and explained academic standards, test scores, and completion rates. She mentioned this bill is not available to virtual charter schools, only brick and mortar charters.

Rep. Pickett explained achievement benefits, economic status and growth, graduation requirements, innovation, and reporting requirements.

MOTION: **Rep. Veile** made a motion to send **H 883** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Kathryn French, American Classical School of Idaho, testified in support of **H 883**.

**VOTE ON
MOTION:**

Chairman Hawkins called for a vote on the motion to send **H 883** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote. Rep. Pickett** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:16 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary