

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Thursday, March 19, 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.

H 918: **Rep. Pickett** presented **H 918**, legislation regarding the Idaho Digital Learning Alliance (IDLA). The bill proposes adjustments to funding structures, administrative cost limits, and participation guidelines for students enrolled in IDLA courses. Rep. Pickett explained the intent of the bill is to address concerns regarding funding discrepancies, including "double dipping" between IDLA and local schools, and to clarify program usage and cost allocation.

Committee members questioned funding structure, including concerns of double dipping between IDLA and school districts, budget impacts, and effects on rural districts and teachers. Discussion included administrative cost limits, program access, use of advanced opportunity funds, and student participation during the school day.

Dr. Jeff Simmons, IDLA Superintendent, testified **in neutral**.

Craig Miller, Meridian Technical Charter High School; **Janet Avery**, Potlach School District; **Jason Moss**, Grace School District; **Karen Pyron**, Butte County Board of Trustees; **Ryan Bowman**, Wendall School District; **Matt Valadaso**, Bliss School District; **John Rehder**, Cottonwood School District; and **Luke Schroeder**, Kimberly School District testified **in opposition**.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **H 918** to the floor with no recommendation.

Rep. Galaviz stated testimony raised significant concerns but emphasized the need to address funding issues and maintain IDLA as a resource, noting failure to act could result in deeper cuts.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Mendive** made a substitute motion to **HOLD H 918** in committee until for time certain March 23, 2026.

AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Hostetler** made an amended substitute motion to **HOLD H 918** in committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE ON AMENDED SUBSTITUTE MOTION: **Rep. Marmon** requested a roll call vote. **Amended substitute motion failed by a vote of 4 AYE and 10 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Garner, Nelsen, Marmon, Hostetler. Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Handy, Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Sauter, Pickett, Veile, Mathias, Galaviz, Hawkins.**

**ROLL CALL
VOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE
MOTION:**

Chairman Hawkins requested a roll call vote. **Substitute motion carried by a vote of 10 AYE and 4 NAY. Voting in favor** of the motion: **Reps. Mendive, Ehardt, Wisniewski, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Marmon, Hostetler, Veile, Hawkins.** **Voting in opposition** to the motion: **Reps. Handy, Pickett, Mathias, Galaviz.**

ADJOURN:

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 10:14 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Jacobi Van Amburg
Secretary