

MINUTES
HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

DATE: Friday, March 20, 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.

S 1288: **Rep. Mendive** presented **S 1288**, legislation creating Idaho High-Needs Student Fund. He spoke about federal mandates, defined high-needs, and explained funding for students with these extraordinary circumstances.

Committee members inquired about the increasing number of high-needs students.

Guy Wangsgard, Bonneville School District 93, **Melissa Vian**, Idaho Parents Unlimited, **Julie Wittman**, **Jennifer Johnson**, and **Paula Mason**, Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and Blind, testified **in support** of **S 1288**.

Rep. Mendive said federal law mandates we educate students with high-needs.

MOTION: **Rep. Nelsen** made a motion to send **S 1288** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

In response to committee questions, **Sen. Blaylock** and **Rep. Mendive** explained one-time funding, funding from the Driver Training Account, and interest from Career Readiness Students Funds. They spoke about obligations and explained medicaid and health care reimbursement.

Committee members discussed health and welfare obligations and education obligations. They spoke about educating our future and addressing all students needs.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Hawkins** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1288** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Mendive** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

S 1339: **Rep. Veile** presented **S 1339**, legislation to replace the existing Continuous Improvement Plans (CIPs) with Strategic Performance Plans. This focuses on student results while outlining stronger, clearer requirements. He mentioned training reimbursement.

Sen. Lent spoke about changing needs in the classroom, setting goals and celebrating successes. He explained charter school performance certificates and opportunities provided.

Victoria Young, testified **in opposition** to **S 1339**.

Karla LaOrange, Idaho Falls School District, testified **in support** of **S 1339**.

Rep. Veile spoke about collaboration with school districts and support from superintendents.

MOTION: **Rep. Galaviz** made a motion to send **S1339** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members discussed student achievement, fiscal responsibility, and local control.

VOTE ON MOTION: **Chairman Hawkins** called for a vote on the motion to send **S 1339** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Veile** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

MOTION: **Rep. Sauter** made a motion to approve the minutes of March 12, and 13, 2026. **Motion carried by voice vote.**

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:34 am.

Representative Hawkins
Chair

Amy Bengtzen
Secretary