

MINUTES  
**HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 01, 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:** Rep. Pickett

**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 8:35 am.

**S 1439:** **Rep. Handy** presented **S 1439**, legislation regarding model school facility council. This bill amends Idaho Code, pushing the model school facility plan deadline from 2026 to 2027 in order to meet objectives.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mendive** made a motion to send **S 1439** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep. Handy** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

**SCR 126:** **Rep. Galaviz** and **Sen. Lent** presented **SCR 126**, legislation regarding community school strategy. They spoke about community resources and mentioned there are over 65 schools participating. They discussed school culture and helping students thrive.

In response to committee member's questions, **Sen. Lent** explained integrated health and social services, community driven resources to help parents help their children, mental health, and local control. He discussed block grants, standardized testing, utilizing technology, and modernizing the education system.

**Katie Marshall**, United Way and **Randy Jensen**, Superintendent, American Falls School District, testified in support of **SCR 126**.

**Debbie Critchfield**, Superintendent of Public Instruction, State Department of Education, spoke about grants being revoked by federal government and conversations with the US Department of Education. She discussed Idaho alignment and reinstatement of the federal grant. She stressed parent empowerment, available connections in communities, and said oversight of the federal grant has moved to Health and Human Resources.

In closing, **Rep. Galaviz** emphasized parent involvement, community resources and support. **Sen. Lent** spoke about creating an environment for Idaho students to thrive.

**MOTION:** **Rep. Mathias** made a motion to send **SCR 126** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation.

Committee members discussed intent, dependency, and outside organizations driving the system. Other committee members discussed learning opportunities, supplemental services, and mentioned this program is not mandatory.

**SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:** **Rep. Hostetler** made a substitute motion to **HOLD SCR 126** in committee.

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
SUBSTITUTE  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Substitute motion failed by a vote of 5 AYE, 7 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the substitute motion: Reps. Hawkins, Mendive, Wisniewski, Marmon, and Hostetler. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Handy, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz. Reps. Ehardt and Pickett were absent/excused.**

**ROLL CALL  
VOTE ON  
ORIGINAL  
MOTION:**

Roll call vote was requested. **Motion carried by a vote of 7 AYE, 5 NAY, and 2 Absent/Excused. Voting in favor of the motion: Reps. Handy, Garner, Nelsen, Sauter, Veile, Mathias, and Galaviz. Voting in opposition to the motion: Reps. Hawkins, Mendive, Wisniewski, Marmon, and Hostetler. Reps. Ehardt and Pickett were absent/excused. Rep. Galaviz will sponsor the bill on the floor.**

**ADJOURN:**

There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:32 am.

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Representative Hawkins  
Chair

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Amy Bengtzen  
Secretary