

**IDAHO SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION
RESOLUTION NO. [XXXX]
CLOSING THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUNDING GAP IN IDAHO PUBLIC
SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, Idaho public schools are legally and morally required to provide a free and appropriate public education (FAPE) to all students, including those with disabilities, as outlined in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA); and

WHEREAS, the federal government originally committed to covering up to 40% of the excess cost of special education services through IDEA funding, but currently funds less than 15%, placing a heavy financial burden on local districts; and

WHEREAS, Idaho's current state and federal special education funding falls short by more than \$80 million annually, forcing local school districts to make up the difference by pulling resources from general education budgets and other essential programs; and

WHEREAS, this chronic underfunding affects the ability of districts to hire and retain special education staff, provide adequate support services, and meet individualized education plans (IEPs) for students; and

WHEREAS, every student in Idaho—regardless of ability—deserves equitable access to a quality education and the services they need to succeed;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Idaho School Boards Association urges the Idaho Legislature and Governor to prioritize increased state funding for special education services to help bridge the \$80+ million annual gap facing Idaho's public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ISBA calls on Idaho's congressional delegation to advocate for the full federal funding commitment under IDEA, and for policies that ensure long-term, stable funding for the special education needs of Idaho students.

Submitted by: