



Idahoans for Choice in Education

Creating a Brighter Future for Idaho Families

LEGISLATIVE BRIEF

Home School

Harbor School

Traditional School

Charter School

Virtual School



Darrell Deide,
Chairman



Holland Johnson,
Treasurer

Gaming The System Or "Racing To The Bottom"

Darrel Deide, Idahoans for Choice in Education

Many parents across Idaho will now play a role in whether or not their child's teacher gets a pay raise.

More than two dozen Idaho school districts, in their plan to incorporate the pay for performance requirement in the new law, have decided that performance pay will be at least partially based upon how many parents the teacher entices to come to parent teacher conferences. Even how many parents the teacher happens to meet in the grocery store might earn the teacher a bonus. While parent involvement is important it has little to do with how well the kids perform in the classroom. The important factor is the quality of the teacher in the classroom and what the student learns and is able to do. This is what performance pay should be about. It is not about what the teacher does but what the student is able to do! For decades we have been paying and evaluating teachers based upon what they do. I thought this new law would change that and start paying and evaluating teachers based upon what their students can do. If this new law is that permissive it would be better to amend it.

Instead of "Racing to the Bottom," we should be striving to reach the top. Instead of rewarding teachers for an activity that has little to do with the fundamental mission of the school we need to reward our great teachers who demand and achieve high performance from their students. That is what schools should be about, not whether or not the teacher can figure out a way to entice their child's parent to show up at a conference.

I believe Superintendent Luna's reform measurers are a giant step to move Idaho students to the top but perhaps those measurers need some fine-tuning. We certainly cannot go back to the old ways! We have been there and it has been a failure for far too many kids.

There are no easy answers' but there are simple answers. We must have the courage to do what we know is morally right. Ronald Reagan

SCHOOL CHOICE:

Freedom to choose a school that provides the environment that you desire...not someone else's!

Freedom to choose a school that meets your student's needs... not someone else's!

Freedom to choose a school that meets your expectations... not someone else's!

Freedom to choose a school based upon its performance... not where you live!

Darrel Deide,
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"Expanding Educational Choices for Idaho Families"

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