

January 9, 2025

To Bonneville County legislators,

The Bonneville County Republican Central Committee urges all state legislators representing our community to support school choice legislation that provides for equal treatment of all education providers through an accountable and transparent process. Members of the central committee recognize and value the importance of competition within the education system. This competition should reflect a fair and equivalent standard for public, private, or home-based instruction receiving taxpayer funding.

Under Idaho's constitution, the legislature must provide "free," "uniform," and "common" schools. Free, uniform, and common means that state law requires all public schools to adhere to equitable standards for students and teachers. Supporting equal treatment and fair competition for all schools accepting public funds entails establishing equitable:

- credentials for teachers and administrators
- testing for students
- financial disclosure
- flexibility in allocation of funds
- hiring and firing practices for teachers
- admission policies for all students
- support for students requiring high levels of financial and staff resources

Under any proposed school-choice legislation, private or home educators receiving taxpayer dollars should adhere to the same standards the law requires for public schools. Whether this requires less restrictions and testing for public schools, or more restrictions and testing for private or home schools, all should adhere to the same standards. Our students deserve consistent instructional standards that support accountability and transparency when spending taxpayer dollars

Idaho's constitution requires our "general, uniform and thorough system of public, free common schools" because it recognizes "the stability of a republican form of government depend[s] mainly upon the intelligence of the people." Our education system is vital to the prosperity of our communities, state, and nation. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring all children in our state, especially our most vulnerable and in greatest need of support, receive a quality education by advocating for educational legislation that provides for fair competition among educators and honors Idaho's constitution.

Bonneville County Republican Central Committee