



Idaho Business Coalition  
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**Next Steps in Improving Idaho Education**  
**Submitted by**  
**The Idaho Business Coalition for Education Excellence**

IBCEE consists of more than 80 Idaho CEOs, presidents and managing partners. It was officially organized in 2003 and incorporated as a 501c3 nonprofit in 2005. Our purpose is twofold: **To facilitate** the work of key stakeholders in achieving education improvement, and **to advocate** on behalf of key education improvement efforts.

IBCEE believes the critically important task of education is to develop students into effective citizens and competent participants in the global economy.

For several years now, IBCEE has strongly encouraged all stakeholders to seek meaningful and constructive reform of Idaho's education system.

**We have supported these major themes of *Students Come First* Including:**

- Significant **investment in technology** to bring state-of-the-art classrooms into Idaho schools -- not to replace teachers, but to give them more tools with which to increase teaching effectiveness;
- A **pay-for-performance** plan that incentivizes collaboration among teachers, rewards teachers for high performance and undertaking extra work, and that only becomes effective after increases in teacher base compensation takes place; and
- **Increased communication and accountability** measures throughout our education system -- for teachers, administrators, schools, and districts.

We have also consistently and strongly supported and underscored the fundamental importance of teachers in the education process.

Further we have advocated from the beginning for input and guidance from education professionals for ways to improve on the "Students Come First Plan."

Finally we favor implementing these in ways that **ensure greater local control**.

As of this writing, two bills associated with this proposal have passed. Within a few weeks, the future of the third and most significant bill, now under review in the Senate Education Committee, will also be settled. We will then have whatever education reforms we're going to get this year with whatever level of reduced resources.

**The larger task, though, still stands before us.**

In the interests of improving student achievement, which all agree should be our goal, **education stakeholders must now come together**. We will need to successfully develop and build the new Idaho education model, whatever that will be. All of us must come together -- those who support changes and those who oppose them.

In this coming together, **IBCEE hopes to play its traditional roles of facilitator and advocate**. That will take the form of continuing our work with the Education Alliance of Idaho, which IBCEE was instrumental in forming and nourishing. It may mean participating in other task forces or ad hoc efforts organized to address specific parts of the newly passed legislation. It may take some other form entirely. Or all of the above.

Whatever opportunities arise, **IBCEE stands ready** to join with all stakeholders, **to facilitate and assist** in any way possible, in implementing the first significant Idaho education reform in recent memory.

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