

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND DECLAR-
3 ING THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVICS EDUCATION AND TEACHING RESPONSIBLE CITI-
4 ZENSHIP IN IDAHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

5 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

6 WHEREAS, a republican form of government depends on an informed and en-
7 gaged citizenry; and

8 WHEREAS, civics education equips students with the knowledge and skills
9 to be capable of self-government at the local, state, and national level; and

10 WHEREAS, declining history and civics scores for students across the
11 country are worrisome for the future of our republic; and

12 WHEREAS, there is an urgent need for American history, social studies,
13 and civics curriculum that fosters an understanding of American values and
14 provides a factual history of our nation; and

15 WHEREAS, a strong social studies and civics curriculum offers valuable
16 opportunities to integrate civic education and promote responsible American
17 citizenship; and

18 WHEREAS, it is necessary to ensure the state's standards and curriculum
19 align with our Idaho values of embracing patriotism and pride about the suc-
20 cess of this great country.

21 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
22 Session of the Sixty-seventh Idaho Legislature, the Senate and the House of
23 Representatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Department of Education,
24 through its social standards review process and work promoting the adoption
25 of high-quality, supplementary curriculum at the local level, is hereby
26 encouraged to:

27 1. Promote the importance of the history of western civilization,
28 civics education, and responsible citizenship within applicable social
29 studies, government, and U.S. history courses. Such promotion includes
30 but is not limited to highlighting the origin of the country and the
31 founding principles within American government, including the U.S.
32 Constitution, individual rights, the separation of powers, and feder-
33 alism; and

34 2. Emphasize the importance of civil discourse and responsible partic-
35 ipation in civic life, including voting, volunteering, and community
36 service, along with the critical skill of thinking independently.

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature acknowledges the vital role
38 of civics education in preparing students to be informed, engaged, and re-
39 sponsible citizens and expresses its commitment to supporting the Idaho De-
40 partment of Education in its efforts to enhance civics education opportuni-
41 ties for all Idaho students.