

Why the Education Index?

As citizens have become increasingly concerned about the problems facing our state's education system, we at the Idaho Freedom Foundation's Center for American Education (CAE) realized that citizens needed a user-friendly tool to understand how legislators vote on education policy.

Beginning this year, CAE analysts will review and score education-related legislation based on separate metrics for matters of K-12 and higher education policy.

K-12 policies will be scored according to a set of seven metrics. The metrics include questions like whether the bill expands families' ability to choose their preferred educational options, fosters accountability and transparency in educational institutions, or protects freedom of speech in teaching and learning.

Higher education policy will be based on a set of five metrics that ask questions about if a bill reduces or eliminates levels of bureaucracy, protects academic freedom, or reinforces concepts of individual responsibility, personal agency, equal treatment under law, and academic excellence.

CAE analysts will impartially rate legislation based solely on its merits and these metrics. Ratings will not be based on a bill sponsor's political affiliation.

Once issued, Education Index ratings will rarely change. Typically, CAE analysts will alter ratings only if lawmakers amend a piece of legislation. When this occurs, analysts will note the changes at the bottom of the Education Index analysis to promote full disclosure and transparency.

If the Legislature amends a bill, some lawmakers will receive two scores for that piece of legislation. The first score will reflect lawmakers' votes on the original bill, while the second score will reflect their votes on the bill as amended.

The CAE welcomes feedback about the Education Index. If you believe you have spotted an error in a voting record or a legislator's score is not accurately reflected on the website, please email Media@IdahoFreedom.org.