



For Immediate Release

January 8, 2024

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**BOARD PRESIDENT DR. LINDA CLARK'S
STATEMENT ON GOVERNOR BRAD LITTLE'S
PROPOSED SCHOOL FACILITIES MODERNIZATION
FUND**

As a career educator, I wholeheartedly support Governor Brad Little's plan to generate \$2 billion in funding over 10 years to address school facilities problems throughout our state.

I have worked in public education for over 50 years and the physical state of school facilities in Idaho has been an issue since I started my career as a young teacher at the old Central Elementary School that used to exist a block north of the Idaho Statehouse.

Fortunately, that school was replaced long ago, but there are dilapidated school facilities throughout Idaho, some over 100 years old and many newer buildings that are in dire need of updating or replacement.

The School Facilities Modernization Fund can finally help us tackle a very serious issue, especially in rural parts of our state where it is often difficult to pass bonds to repair or replace school buildings.

It will also bring property tax relief. I worked for more than 37 years in Idaho's fastest growing district and have firsthand experience with the burden on local taxing districts created by rapid growth. Local property owners currently bear the cost of building and updating schools.

It is my personal view that Governor Little's proposal is a game changer that can finally help fix a longstanding statewide problem affecting thousands of students whose ability to learn is too often affected because of dilapidated and sometimes even unsafe school facilities.

-Dr. Linda Clark, President, Idaho State Board of Education

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Note My email address has changed. It is now: mkeckler@edu.idaho.gov