

## **Educational Law and Policy Annual Report 2021**

As usual, the 2021 Idaho legislature provided some interesting proposals for changes in existing laws while also proposing some new laws. There were over 900 pieces of legislation drafted. 623 were given an introduction into a bill -- 441 in the house and 241 in the Senate -- including bills, resolutions, and memorials. 311 were signed by the Governor and 4 were vetoed.

Monies for public school funding were often points of discussion. Don't predict that teachers will experience a salary raise in the near future. Another bill that actually confirmed what educators already knew, was that students learn best in person, especially elementary and special needs students.

An additional bill that received publicity was one on banning the teaching of "critical race theory". The argument for the banning of this theory is that schools are teaching sectarianism by advocating that one race could be superior to another and that actions by these "superior races" in the past determined actions committed in the past. Schools claim that the study explores ways in which a history of inequality and racism in the US have continued to impact American society today. In other words, teachers should not teach certain points in history.

Several additional bills focused on funding students'/parents' "right to choose" a variety of private or non-traditional educational institutions.

Watch for additional controversial laws concerning education coming from our legislature in the years to come.