



"Developing Lifelong Learners Today"

McCall-Donnelly Joint School District No. 421  
299 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., McCall, ID 83638  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**McCALL-DONNELLY SCHOOL DISTRICT EXPLORING SOLUTIONS TO \$590,000 REDUCTION IN STATE FUNDING RESULTING FROM CHANGE IN ALLOCATION METHODOLOGY**

McCALL, ID, February 8, 2024 – McCall-Donnelly School District is exploring ways to address a reduction in funding resulting from the state legislature's action during its 2023 legislative session. Previously, districts' funding allocations were based on total student enrollment. The new formula calculates allocations based on average daily attendance.

For McCall-Donnelly School District, the attendance-based formula will result in a \$590,000 reduction for the 2023-2024 school year—equivalent to compensation for approximately seven teachers and classified employees. *Idaho Education News* reports that the change could result in a loss of \$162 million in funding for districts across the state.

"Even before the formula change, state allocations didn't cover the District's actual costs," said Superintendent Eric Pingrey.

Approximately 80 percent of Idaho districts use voter-approved supplemental levies to offset funding gaps between state allocations and actual costs. McCall-Donnelly has been fortunate to not have to ask the community to support supplemental levies due to a 2007 budget stabilization levy; however, that amount remains constant and is now worth far less due to inflation.

"In today's dollars, the stabilization levy is worth \$2.7 million less than in 2007," Pingrey said.

District enrollment has increased 37 percent in the last decade. In addition, compensation costs continue to rise, and employee retention and recruitment has become more challenging with the region's increasing housing costs.

"We're exploring ways to address this latest legislative funding formula change as well as the inflationary reduction in the stabilization levy value," Pingrey said. "We're looking at all options."

"Maintaining staff-to-student ratios in classrooms as well as current student support and extracurricular activities is important," said McCall-Donnelly Board Chair, Trustee Laurie Erikson. "We want to ensure the District continues to provide the high-quality educational experiences our community has come to expect."

Pingrey added the District will be reaching out to gather community input. "Resident feedback and prioritization of services becomes even more important as the District plans for the future amidst growth and budgetary challenges."

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Barbara R Morgan Elementary School   Donnelly Elementary School  
Payette Lakes Middle School   Heartland High School   McCall-Donnelly High School



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**About McCall-Donnelly School District:**

Led by Superintendent, Eric Pingrey, the McCall-Donnelly School District serves 1,400 students at five schools. McCall-Donnelly School District has been named the number 1 ranked school district in Idaho and McCall-Donnelly High School has been named one of the nation's top high schools by *U.S. News*. The District provides public education programs from preschool through grade 12. 103 teachers and 66 paraprofessional staff directly serve students each day. The District is governed by a five-member Board of Trustees elected by District residents.

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