

Idaho Falls Rep. McGeachin visits Skyline

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NEWS EDITOR

Rep. Janice McGeachin was invited to spend April 13-14 visiting Skyline in order to experience firsthand the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) and state policies at work.

One of the many items on her agenda was to visit several classrooms to watch how teachers teach. When in these classrooms, several students got the chance to ask McGeachin questions about how the House of Representatives of Idaho works and about the bills that she supports and doesn't support. According to McGeachin, the No Child Left Behind Act by President Bush and Congress is a work in progress. She also implied that Idaho is testing out new ideas to fulfill the requirements of the NCLB. She also said that the state resolution say the arts are important and should be kept in schools, for one of her own children is an artist, and she sees positive qualities such as creativity and self-esteem coming out of art and other such programs. McGeachin also said that education lie with the parents. Which she herself has done with her children, helping by going on field trips with her kids and their classes as well as tutoring. She also addressed The Idaho Virtual Academy (IDVA). The IDVA is an online schooling program set up by the government of Idaho to further educate students by allowing them to receive an alternative education activities such as reading and writing, and students would spend most of their time doing hands on projects, such as field trips. Their is also some student/teacher contact such as when parents have questions they can call a teacher and ask for help in that area or they can log on to see how the student is doing and basically make suggestions to help. McGeachin said that participation in this field grew faster than they had expected and that Idahoeans may be seeing more of this type of teaching in the future due to how fast the technology age has been growing. But what about the costs of education. How much actually reaches the classroom?

According to Rep. McGeachin only about half of the money is actually reaching the classroom. After all of the administrative costs such as current technology, textbooks, administrative salaries, etc. the money for education is slim. McGeachin believes that local districts should prioritize how the schools spend the money. An alternate may be to have more local control for classes rather than the state control.