

News from Idaho KIDS COUNT



# Idaho KIDS COUNT e-news

Idaho KIDS COUNT would like to share the following announcements with you.

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## State Tax Commission Report & Schools

We know that Idaho kids need strong schools to have bright futures. Many Idaho schools are struggling to meet the needs of their students since funding has been cut by 19% in the past five years. At the same time, the Idaho Legislature is expected to debate modifications to one of the property taxes that businesses pay. This tax on business equipment brings **\$39 million directly to local school districts**. Some taxing districts would have to see real estate property tax rates nearly double to make up for the loss. Across the state, the tax provides \$141 million for schools, ambulances, libraries, fire protection, and other community services. See this [new report from the Idaho State Tax Commission](#).

## Fewer Opportunities for Young People

The later teen years and early twenties are a critical point for young people strengthening their skills for future work, whether through on-the-job learning or learning in school. Idaho has a growing number of young people who are neither in school nor working. The rate of these so-called 'disconnected youth' grew from 15% to 21% in our state over the past decade. Currently, only three states are worse off than Idaho: Alabama, Louisiana, and West Virginia.

In December, the Annie E. Casey Foundation released a new KIDS COUNT report on this topic, [Youth and Work: Restoring Teen and Young Adult Connections to](#)

[Opportunity](#). Idaho KIDS COUNT Advisory Board Member, Harriet Shaklee, and Idaho KIDS COUNT Director, Lauren Necochea, wrote an editorial examining opportunities for young adults in Idaho, published in both the [CDA Press](#) and the [Idaho Statesman](#). For a print copy of the full report, please email [lnecochea@mtnstatesgroup.org](mailto:lnecochea@mtnstatesgroup.org).

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