

▼ Our views

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More school choice helps kids

▼ **SUMMARY:** New Nampa charter school may provide environment that will help some students thrive

When the Idaho Charter Commission approved Nampa Classical Academy last week, it provided local parents with another option for educating their children. Having more options is almost always a good thing — and the arena of education should be no different.

The school promises a “classical education,” and on Oct. 4 will give a presentation to the public on what that is. Board member Isaac Moffet learned about the curriculum and how to integrate it, saying students he observed were enthusiastic about it and loved it. “I started investigating what kind of education our founding fathers received,” he said. “Our founding fathers’ education equipped them to rise to the occasion and fulfill their destinies.”

We don’t think “one size fits all” is appropriate when it comes to education. For whatever reason, some students just may not do well in traditional public schools. They may need an alternative option.

That does come with a caveat, however. Any time public dollars are being spent on a school, that school needs to be operated with responsibility and accountability. There needs to be strong oversight.

The Nampa School Board voted to deny the petition, saying the district isn’t prepared to take on those responsibilities and liabilities. Those obligations now lie with the state, and we call on the state to make sure they do that job thoroughly.

We also encourage anyone considering enrolling their child in Nampa Classical Academy to attend the Oct. 4 forum (time to be determined) and learn more about classical education. You can learn more at ncacharter.org or by sending an e-mail to info@ncacharter.org.

Getting the best education for our kids and making them excited about learning is a goal we can all shoot for. If the Nampa Classical Academy can help in that regard, more power to them.

This is not to disparage the hard work that public school teachers and administrators do. There are hundreds of excellent public school teachers in the valley working many hard hours to provide the best education they can for students, and they do a super job.

But sometimes a different methodology and environment can be just what a specific child needs to not only learn, but to want to learn, to have an enthusiasm for education. If that methodology can be found in a charter school, we should do all we can to promote it.

■ Our view is based on the majority opinions of the Idaho Press-Tribune editorial board. Members of the board are Rick V. Weaver, publisher; Vickie Holbrook, managing editor; David Woolsey, assistant managing editor; Phil Bridges, opinion editor; and community representatives Scott Faris and Kelvin Bishop of Nampa and Jay Sears of Wilder.