

# The Idaho Statesman

May 14, 2012 Monday

## EDUCATION MONEY

Editorial board uses incorrect measures

It is obvious that the Statesman editorial board supports more money for education regardless of the facts (Our View, April 22).

How else can you explain their "surprising and damning" conclusion that we as taxpayers are not paying enough for education? The old proverb about "liars and figures" comes to mind. Measuring contributions based on percentage of personal income has no correlation to the monies spent by the taxpayer to support education. The "per student" amount is the true measure of money invested.

Based on a 2010 study by the **Cato Institute**, we have increased our support of K-12 education from \$50,000 in 1970 to \$150,000 in 2010, adjusted for inflation — a 200 percent increase. The result of this massive increase is a performance "flat line" on math and reading, and a 5 percent decrease in science proficiency. Not a great testament to more money solving the education system problems.

Our problem is the education system itself. It was created to produce workers for the factories, and it is still an education factory. It's broken and needs to be replaced with a learning system of the 21st Century. Please stop drinking the Kool-Aid.

RIC TENER, Eagle