

[Christa Hazel, School Board Trustee](#) responding to IFF “WasteWednesday” tweet:

This week, the Idaho Freedom Foundation posted this graphic on social media. In my personal opinion, this intentionally gives the impression the CdA School District uses tax payer dollars to fund jugglers at the expense of classroom supply money when in fact the money to support the Arts & Humanities programming at Sorensen comes from privately raised dollars by the hardworking, passionate, and dedicated parent community around Sorensen and their [Sorensen PTO](#).

This misrepresents the funding mechanisms for Sorensen Magnet School for the Arts and Humanities. First, the school district provides taxpayer funded dollars for classroom supplies. The Sorensen parent group funds their programming with privately raised monies, not tax payer dollars. The parents are tasked to raise the funds needed to go above what the district funds. In order to support the magnet focus and special programming, the parents of the Sorensen community fundraise throughout the year to support their school. This private support for a public school helps the taxpayer in many ways. Mainly, this magnet model provides an emphasized program that isn't an extra cost to the taxpayer but competes to retain students that would otherwise consider other educational opportunities. Coeur d'Alene Schools strives to provide a quality education to every child. Sorensen Magnet School helps us deliver this promise to our community and has the private support to make his happen. It has paid off, too. Sorensen is our highest performing school in the district and benefits from tremendous community support beyond what the taxpayer can provide.

I know the Idaho Freedom Foundation prides itself as an advocate for transparency and accurate information as a news source. Many leaders and legislators look to the IFF for information. I hope others will agree with me that Sorensen's programs are a win-win for our community, our taxpayers, and most of all are students. I'm happy to provide information on magnet funding should anyone inquire. My email is CHazel@cdaschools.org.