

# PETITION: BRING THE BIBLE BACK TO SCHOOL

For nearly one hundred years, Idaho public school students heard the Bible read by their teachers at the beginning of each school day.

This tradition – a common practice in nearly every state in our country – helped foster unity among the students as they collectively recognized God Almighty and focused their minds on the great reservoir of moral and political principles contained in His Word. This was affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Vidal v. Girard's Executors* (1844), which declared:

*"Why may not the Bible, and especially the New Testament, without note or comment, be read and taught as a divine revelation in the [schools]—its general precepts expounded, its evidences explained, and its glorious principles of morality inculcated?"*

The framers of the Idaho Constitution agreed, intentionally crafting our founding document in such a way as to allow the Bible to be read in public schools. As William H. Clagett (R-Shoshone), President of the Idaho Constitutional Convention, warned:

*"[T]o exclude the children of the state from access to this great reservoir of moral principles and political maxims of daily duty [found in Scripture would do] a great injustice to the state at large."*

Unfortunately, the Bible has not been read aloud in Idaho schools since a federal court invalidated the practice in 1963. In the three decades that followed our collective decision to remove the Bible from our schools, our nation experienced unprecedented social upheaval. Violent crime, teen pregnancies, divorce, and cohabitation soared, while student academic performance and standardized test scores dropped tremendously.

We, the undersigned, call upon the Idaho State Legislature to pass legislation so that daily Bible readings – without instruction or comment, and with appropriate conscience protections – will once again take place in every state-funded public school.

Name	Street Address	City	Zip	* Email	* Email is required for petition to be valid

**This petition was circulated by:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_



To return this petition, please scan and email to [info@idahofamily.org](mailto:info@idahofamily.org) or mail to **1116 S Vista Ave Suite 227 Boise, ID 83705**

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