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Learn about student-centered learning at free Mastery Education Conference

(BOISE) – For the past three years, 32 schools in 18 districts across Idaho have explored and embraced a mastery-based approach to learning with help from the State Department of Education. Now all interested Idaho educators have the opportunity to explore this personalized, flexible approach during a free two-day conference.

“Mastery-based education is the wave of the future, and Idaho is already recognized as a national leader in this effort,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “Thanks to approval from the Legislature this winter, we can now lift the cap on participating schools and help students in all corners of the state benefit from this collaborative, personalized approach.”

“We invite educators and administrators to attend this conference and personally experience how Idaho Mastery Education works to ensure student success.”

Idaho Mastery Education Conference 2019 is scheduled from 8:30 to 4:30 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, June 10-11, at the Boise Centre. Lunch will be provided both days. Superintendent Ybarra will deliver the keynote address during Tuesday’s lunch hour, and Monday’s lunch will feature a panel of teachers and education leaders. Participants also are invited to attend the Idaho Student Media Festival from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, a red-carpet event for students from across the state to share their digital learning projects.

Many schools have already expressed interest in joining the Idaho Mastery Education Network, and the conference can serve as a strategic planning event for those educators and administrators. The gathering also is designed for educators at earlier stages of exploring the mastery approach, curious about how it might fit their school or district.

Idaho Mastery Education is a student-centered educational system that helps learners develop competencies and skills with flexibility in both time and learning methods, progressing according to their mastery of content that is relevant and meaningful to their lives.

Moving Idaho to a mastery-based K-12 education system was the No. 1 recommendation of the Task Force for Improving Education. Idaho lawmakers approved the model in 2015, and the initial cohort of participants was selected, forming the Idaho Mastery Education Network as a mastery incubator. The 32 IMEN schools hail from 18 school districts and include rural and urban schools, alternative schools and charter schools from varied parts of the state.

Response from educators, students and parents has been very positive, said Kelly Brady, director of Instructional Support for Student-Centered Learning. She has led Idaho's mastery effort from the beginning.

"It's been wonderful to see students' skills and confidence grow within systems specifically designed to help them meet their educational goals," Brady said, noting reports of increased student engagement and fewer behavioral issues. "It's exciting for their teachers, too. The goal is to build a truly student-centered experience for children and teens throughout Idaho, helping students build on their background knowledge and make new connections and insights to discover their strengths and succeed."

[To secure a place at the conference, register online.](#) Session topics include culture and leadership, college and career readiness, competencies and standards, assessment, teaching and learning support, and advancement upon mastery.

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Registration information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/idaho-mastery-education-conference-2019-tickets-52045772306>