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**SUPERINTENDENT YBARRA RELEASES FY18 PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BUDGET PROVIDING FOCUSED SUPPORT FOR ALL SCHOOLS
AND STUDENTS TO ACHIEVE**

(BOISE) – The public schools budget request from the Idaho State Department of Education was submitted to the Division of Financial Management, and the Legislative Services office, Superintendent Ybarra announced today. The FY18 public schools budget requests a general fund increase of 6.6% for Idaho’s public schools.

“I would first like to send out a sincere ‘thank you’ to all of the stakeholders, legislators, Governor’s Office, and staff members who helped make this budget a true reflection of a collaborative and transparent process,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “This budget truly supports public education, and is responsive to the present teacher shortage by not only increasing funding for the career ladder, but increasing funding for classified staff.”

Superintendent Ybarra continued by saying, “With this request, we address the classified staff salary gap, which in turn can have a positive impact on retention, the climate and culture of local school districts, and also begin to provide districts the resources to ‘grow their own’ in identifying qualified and knowledgeable educators to address the shortage.”

The FY18 public schools budget request was not only developed through collaboration and transparency, but was also driven by three guiding principles:

1. The needs of children must drive any necessary change.
2. Every student can learn and must have a highly effective teacher in every classroom.
3. Current and new resources must focus on the demands of the 21st Century.

Additionally, the FY18 public schools budget request meets all of the necessary statutory expenditures. Schools would also see an increase of \$104.7 million dollars from the general fund, with bright spots that include:

- An increase of \$57.8 million for continuation of the career ladder.
- An increase of \$7.9 million for literacy proficiency to invest in revising the early education literacy tool that teachers use to inform instruction.
- An increase of \$2 million for college/career advisors and student mentors, providing districts additional resources to support students in being successful in life after high school.
- An increase of \$11 million to support classified staff, and allow school districts to retain qualified employees.
- An increase of \$8 million for technology for local school districts to further support student achievement with common-sense technology.



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- A request of \$300,000 for a Rural Education Support Center, which will embrace “job-sharing” opportunities, as well as house various other support programs for our rural school districts, which encompass nearly 70% of the state.

Moving forward, the Legislature’s Budget and Policy Analysis staff and the Division of Financial Management will be involved in further analysis of these recommendations in developing the legislative budget booklet.

Additional questions regarding the FY18 public schools budget may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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Note: The 6.6% increase, and the \$104.7 million dollar increase referenced above does not include the \$10.7 million FY18 general fund request for the Idaho Education Services for the Deaf and Blind (IESDB).

Attachments: FY18 Public Schools budget request
FY18 Public Schools budget request press kit