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SHERRI YBARRA
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Superintendent Ybarra outlines budget plan to continue support of students, teachers

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(BOISE) -- Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra will ask the Legislature in January to stay the course in its positive investments in Idaho's nearly 300,000 students and 17,700 teachers through continued financial support for the state's major public education initiatives.

"Overwhelmingly, I'm hearing from educators and the public that Idaho is headed in the right direction for supporting students and teachers," Superintendent Ybarra said. "Idaho is seeing the positive impact of our investment evidenced in the huge increase of students taking college level classes in high schools, the early positive gains in reading, as well as districts making strides in attracting and retaining teachers."

Superintendent Ybarra filed her request for the 2018-19 school year with the Division of Financial Management and Legislative Services Budget Office today as the first step of the state's budgeting process.

"My budget request continues the forward momentum of the past few years. We also heard loud and clear from stakeholders 'no new initiatives,' so there are no surprises in our budget," Superintendent Ybarra said. "We focused on supporting the shared priorities of education stakeholders and policy makers including attracting and retaining great teachers, expanding opportunities for students, and ensuring local districts had funds to tackle increased operation costs and health insurance premiums."

Superintendent Ybarra's request for public schools includes a 6.8% increase, or about \$114 million, in general fund support from the current year's budget. Of the requested increase, \$35.6 million is required by law to address growth, and \$56.5 million is tied to initiatives from the Governor's Task Force recommendations on improving public education in Idaho.

In developing the request, the State Department of Education leaders met with key education stakeholders, including representatives of parent, administrator, teacher, and school board groups as well as business leaders.

"We've set a high bar for our schools to ensure students reach high levels of achievement and for our students to go on to higher education after school," Superintendent Ybarra said. "We heard from stakeholders we need to align our resources to ensure student and school success as educators work hard to reach these long-term goals for Idaho."



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Some of the key investments in Superintendent Ybarra's budget blueprint for public schools include the following increases:

- \$46.6 million for the Career Ladder, Idaho's funding for teacher salaries, PERSI increase including a minimum salary of \$35,800;
- \$19 million for district discretionary costs including a 4.18% increase in funds earmarked for health insurance and 3% increase in operational costs
- \$8 million for Advanced Opportunities, which provides secondary students \$4,125 to take college credit classes and other advanced work;
- \$8.6 million to support classroom technology, wireless infrastructure, student information management system;
- \$2 million for College and Career Advising and Mentoring;
- \$1.4 million for expansion of the state's mastery based education initiative; and
- \$1.3 million for the state's new science assessment.

Superintendent Ybarra also filed today the budget request for the State Department of Education, the agency she heads that is charged with supporting public schools. The request includes \$300,000 for her proposed Rural Education Support Networks.

"As we discuss the needs of our rural districts and students support continues to grow for this initiative," Superintendent Ybarra said. "Our business and industry leaders are worried that without addressing rural needs we will create a two-class system of schools."

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Editors & reporters: Attached is a one-page summary of the FY2019 Public Schools Request.