Superintendent Ybarra’s FY17 public schools budget seeks to increase funding for Idaho’s public schools by $110,498,600 with an overall budget request of $1,577,904,100 from the general fund. This request would increase funding for public education by 7.5%, supporting schools, educators, and students with increased funding for the Career Ladder, Advanced Opportunities, Academic and College or Career Advisors and Student Mentors, just to name a few.

### Highlights: What is different from FY16?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>FY16</th>
<th>FY17 Request</th>
<th>$ Change</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operational Funding</td>
<td>$23,868</td>
<td>$25,696</td>
<td>$1,828</td>
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<td>Career Ladder</td>
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<td>Literacy Proficiency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural School Centers</td>
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</table>

### Operational Funding, AKA Discretionary

*Note: In general terms, a support unit is funding which supports 1 Idaho classroom.*

Operational funding is used by districts for staffing, utilities, supplies and curriculum, and safely transporting students—Superintendent Ybarra’s request brings Idaho back to the comparable FY09 levels with a distribution factor of $25,696 and an increase of 146 support units.

### Rural Education Centers

Rural Education Centers are the business model that Idaho schools need allowing for collaboration, flexibility, and cost savings in a central location. Superintendent Ybarra is requesting $300,000 to support a Rural Education Center in north Idaho which would provide funding for a director, support staff, and operational costs.

### Academic and College Career Advisors, Student Mentors

College and Career Counseling is for every student; however:

- Idaho’s average student ratio is 1 counselor to every 434 students ([www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org))
- The American School Counselors Association (ASCA) recommends no more than 250 students per counselor

Superintendent Ybarra’s FY17 budget request seeks $1,750,000 to support students in counseling for college or career through research-based models. It is also important to note that this request doesn’t replace traditional school counselors, but supports career advising programs best suited to meet local school district’s needs—true local control.