



IDAHO SUPERINTENDENTS NETWORK *LEADING THE WAY TO IMPROVED OUTCOMES*

APPLICATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN PHASE I

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Idaho Superintendents Network is a project developed by the State Department of Education in conjunction with Boise State University's Center for School Improvement and the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership to support the work of district leaders in improving outcomes for all students by focusing on the quality of instruction.

The goal of phase 1 of the project is to create a network of 25 committed superintendents who will work together to develop a cohesive and dedicated leadership community focused on excellence in teaching. They will support each other as they bring about change and collectively brainstorm obstacles that may be preventing improvement in the quality of the instruction in their districts. The Department will act as a resource and provide the necessary research, experts, and planning to bring superintendents from across the state together to discuss self-identified issues.

Topics for discussion include:

- District Central Offices and Learning Improvements: Great Urgency, Few Guides
- Lessons from Research on District Central Offices and Examples from Practice
- Creating and Supporting District and Building-Level Leaders
- Developing a Sense of Purpose
- Analyzing Teaching and Learning through Data

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna will be part of the network, as will Deputy Superintendents Rob Sauer, Nick Smith and Marybeth Flachbart. The Department's goal is not to drive the conversation but to be a part of meeting the individual needs and challenges of each district superintendent in the network.

Each superintendent selected will receive funding to attend five meetings during the 2009-2010 school year. The meetings will be facilitated by University of Washington faculty Dr. Michael Copland and Dr. Meredith Honig. (Information on their research can be found at the Center for Comprehensive Reform's web site at www.centerforcsi.org).

Funding for the network is provided by Idaho's Title I School Improvement funds. Superintendents who serve a high percentage of at-risk students will receive special consideration for inclusion in this project. If you have questions, please contact Marybeth Flachbart at mbflachbart@sde.idaho.gov.

Details:

- The first meeting will be held on August 14, 2009, the day after the Annual State Superintendents' Meeting.
- Four additional meetings will be scheduled in October, January, March, June.
- Three meetings will be held in Boise.
- One meeting will be in Coeur d'Alene.
- One meeting will be held in Pocatello.
- A schedule will be developed by August 1 and distributed to participants prior to the Annual Superintendents' Meeting.
- Consulting fees, materials, and travel expenses will be covered through the grant.



APPLICATION SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Participation in phase 1 is limited to 25 Idaho superintendents. Applications are due to Marybeth Flachbart by **July 1, 2009**. They can be submitted electronically.

Marybeth Flachbart
Deputy Superintendent, Student Achievement
and School Improvement
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720
(208) 332-6954
mbflachbart@sde.idaho.gov

Additional School Improvement Information is available online at <http://csi.boisestate.edu/improvement.htm>.

PART I

In a brief narrative (no more than one page), please respond to the following:

1. What is the work you are currently doing day to day to support the improvement in principals' instructional leadership, and in the overall improvement of teaching and learning in your district?
2. If you are selected for participation in the Superintendents Network, what do you envision as the role of the network to you professionally?
3. What outcomes do you expect in your district school as a result of participation in the project?
4. How will the information you gain from being a part of the network be transferred into the work of other system and school leaders?

PART II

Provide a data table that demonstrates an at-a-glance look at the achievement data of your district.

If available, provide a copy of the mission/vision statement for your district and/or the strategic plan for your district. (You do not need to print a copy of your CIP tool. We have access to this information.)

PART III: REQUIRED APPLICATION SIGNATURES

Superintendent

Date

PART IV: PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT

Please review the attached Performance Agreement that outlines the agreed upon responsibilities of all participating superintendents and the Idaho State Department of Education. A copy of the Performance Agreement with required signature must accompany all applications. If selected, Idaho State Department of Education and Regional Support Center signatures will be added and a copy of the complete Performance Agreement returned to participating superintendents.



PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT FOR PHASE I OF THE IDAHO SUPERINTENDENTS NETWORK

THE IDAHO STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AGREES TO:

- Provide funding for participation in phase I of the Superintendents Network, which will include the cost of consultants, materials, and travel expenses related to participation.
- Oversee collaboration between district superintendents, Boise State University's Center for School Improvement and the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership.
- Participate in all Idaho Superintendents Network Meetings.
- Identify and monitor approved Regional Support Centers.

Deputy Superintendent - Student Achievement & School
Accountability

Date

NCLB Program Director

Date

State School Improvement Coordinator

Date

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT AGREES TO:

- Spend the entirety of funds provided by the State Department of Education in contracted services that support the network.
- Attend each of the five Superintendents Network meetings.
- Participate in the evaluation of the project.
- Provide student achievement data, if necessary, for program evaluation.
- Commit to participate in related activities between network meetings (selected readings, conference calls, etc.).

Superintendent

Date