



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 16, 2009

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Superintendent Luna awards 11 schools for raising student achievement**
- **Register now for the Post-Legislative Tour**
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SUPERINTENDENT LUNA RECOGNIZES SCHOOLS, LEP EDUCATORS FOR RAISING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT (GO TO TOP)

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna presented 11 Idaho schools with awards of between \$15,000 and \$20,000 each for creating innovative intervention programs and raising student achievement over the past year. Superintendent Luna also presented the awards for LEP Educators of the Year and the 2009 LEP Programs of Excellence.

Title I Awards

All of the awarded schools serve large populations of low-income students. Superintendent Luna presented the awards at the Idaho Title I/Serve Idaho Conference awards dinner in Boise Wednesday night.

"These schools have proven that even in the face of the most difficult challenges, every student can learn and succeed," Superintendent Luna said. "I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize and reward the hard-working educators in these schools for their continued dedication to raising student achievement. I hope other schools in Idaho and across the nation can learn from their successes."

Central Elementary School in Nampa and Lincoln Elementary School in Twin Falls received the National Distinguished Title I School Award. Each school received a check of \$15,000. In addition, the schools got to attend and present at the National Title I Conference in San Antonio earlier this year.

Nine other schools and districts from across Idaho received checks of \$20,000 for their work to increase student achievement among all students:

Office Location
650 West State Street

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208-332-6800

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- Blaine County School District
- Burley Senior High School, Cassia County School District
- Dalton Elementary School, Coeur d'Alene School District
- East Elementary School, Mountain Home School District
- Hobbs Middle School, Shelley School District
- Lakeside Middle School, Plummer-Worley School District
- Taft Elementary, Boise School District
- Vallivue Middle School, Vallivue School District
- Van Buren Elementary, Caldwell School District

These nine schools were invited to participate in the Showcase of Schools at the Title I/Serve Idaho Conference this week where they will share their successes with other schools across the state. Each school was surprised with a \$20,000 check in recognition of their work at the awards dinner on Wednesday night.

The awards were funded with federal Title I dollars. Title I is a federal program that provides additional funding to schools with large populations of low-income students to ensure these students receive a high-quality education and reach proficiency on state academic standards and assessments. The No Child Left Behind Act tied accountability to Title I funding. All states are required to set aside a portion of Title I funds to recognize and reward Title I schools for raising student achievement.

LEP Educators of the Year and Programs of Excellence Awards

This is the first year the State Department of Education has awarded educators and programs of excellence specifically for their work with LEP students. With federal funding from Title III of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Department created the awards program to recognize the Administrator, Teacher and Paraprofessional of the Year as well as Programs of Excellence at the elementary and secondary levels. The awards are granted based on a competitive nomination process. About 18,623 students in Idaho public schools have been identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP) because they have no or very limited English proficiency.

The Administrator, Teacher and Paraprofessional of the Year will each receive \$1,000. The Programs of Excellence will each receive \$2,500. The recipients will receive their awards at the Title I/Serve Idaho Conference in Boise on April 15-17.

Here are the 2009 LEP Award recipients:

- Administrator of the Year: Dr. Carolyn Hondo, assistant principal, Burley Senior High School, Burley
- Teacher of the Year: Loren Cross, third-grade teacher, W.H. Taft Elementary School, Boise.
- Paraprofessional of the Year: Paty Gil, Shelley High School, Shelley
- Elementary Program of the Year: W.H. Taft Elementary School, Boise School District
- Secondary Program of the Year: Burley Senior High School, Cassia County School District



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REGISTER NOW FOR THE POST-LEGISLATIVE TOUR (GO TO TOP)

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and staff from the State Department of Education will be traveling throughout the state April 27-May 1 on the 2009 Post-Legislative Tour. Each meeting will be held 8:45 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following days:

- April 27: Holiday Inn - Airport, Boise
- April 29: Coeur d'Alene Resort, Coeur d'Alene
- May 1: Red Lion, Pocatello

Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/meetings_events/ to register for the meeting and to read the tentative agenda. If you have any questions or experience problems in using the online registration form, please contact Brenda Mattson at (208) 332-6815 or BKMattson@sde.idaho.gov.

Idaho Live session available: The Boise meeting will also be streamed online via Idaho Live for those who are unable to travel to a Post-Legislative Tour meeting. The session will be archived for future reference. To register for this session, please visit http://www.idahodigitallearning.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_id=236_1.

DEPARTMENT NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR ASSESSMENT POSITIONS (GO TO TOP)

The Idaho State Department of Education is now accepting applications for three open positions that will work with K-12 assessment programs:

- Deputy Superintendent, Assessment
- Coordinator, Idaho Alternate Assessment (IAA)
- Coordinator, Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)

Based on a plan outlined by Governor Otter and supported by the Legislature and Superintendent Luna, the State Board of Education will realign its role in K-12 education beginning in the new fiscal year on July 1. Under this plan, the State Board of Education will transfer all assessment activities, including the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Idaho English Language Assessment (IELA), as well as the GEAR UP program to the State Department of Education. The State Board will retain its role as the accountability arm for public education, including the determination of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP).

The full job descriptions and application information are online at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/job_openings/. Application screening and review will begin **April 29, 2009**.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)

- **House Bill 252 -- School District Financial Emergencies:** This bill relating to teacher contracts and district financial emergencies has been signed into law by the Governor. This consensus bill is the result of negotiations between bipartisan stakeholders for the last 30 days and has broad support among all education interests.
 - Read the bill: <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/H0252.htm>.



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- **House Bill 256 -- Student Transportation Support Program:** This bill passed the full House. The Senate Education Committee sent the bill to the amending order in the Senate, where it was amended and awaits further possible amendments.
 - Read the bill: <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/H0256.htm>.
- **House Bill 262 -- Teacher Early Retirement Repeal, Freeze of Experience Grid:** This bill has passed the full House and the Senate Education Committee. It now heads to the full Senate.
 - Read the bill: <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/H0262.htm>.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the GIANTS Award ceremony from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, April 20 at the Discover Center of Idaho in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Board of Land Commissioners meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Educational Law Institute conference at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 21 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Boise State University Concurrent Enrollment Appreciation Dinner at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, April 21 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the YMCA Youth Government Program opening ceremonies at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak to an education class at Boise State University at 3 p.m. on Thursday, April 23 in Boise.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Apply for School Lunch Equipment grants** -- The State Department of Education is now accepting applications for the National School Lunch Economic Stimulus Funding for National School Lunch Program. Under this portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Idaho school districts and public charter schools can apply for funding to purchase needed school lunch equipment. Selected Idaho schools will be awarded grants of \$2,000 or more based upon the need for equipment assistance. Significant priority will be given to school food authorities (SFAs) in which more than 50 percent of the students are eligible for free or reduced priced meals. *Please note: To be eligible to receive funds, schools must complete an application form. The survey schools filled out in March does not count as an application for these funds.* Visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/> to download the application form. All applications must be postmarked by **May 8, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Herrera at (208) 332-6820 or EHerrera@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Request a Family Math Night kit** -- As part of the Idaho Math Initiative, the State Department of Education, in partnership with the Micron Technology Foundation, is offering 45 free Family Math Night kits to school districts across the state. The kits contain games, manipulatives, handouts and other items -- everything you need to host a Family Math Night at your school! The kits will be given to school districts on a first come, first served basis. To



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request a kit for your district or public charter school, visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/math_initiative.htm and fill out the request form.

- **Annual Superintendents' Meeting** -- Mark your calendars! The 2009 Annual Superintendents' Meeting has been scheduled for August 13, 2009. More details to come.
- **Be Outside program featured on Idaho Public Television** -- Idaho Public Television's *Dialogue* and *Dialogue for Kids* programs will discuss the Be Outside program next week. Be Outside is a group of Idaho city, state and federal agencies, non-profit organizations and the business community who work together to connect Idaho children with the nature and outdoors. *Dialogue* will air April 23 at 8:30 p.m. MT. *Dialogue for Kids* will air Tuesday, April 21 at 2 p.m. MT. Visit <http://www.idahoptv.org/> to read more. To learn more about Be Outside, visit <http://www.visitidaho.org/children-in-nature/>.
- **Scholarships for National Board Certification** -- JP Morgan Chase is giving \$16,000 in scholarships to Idaho teachers seeking National Board Certification in the 2009-2010 cycle, either first time candidates or retake candidates. Scholarships are for Boise and Moscow teachers and will be given on first-come, first-served basis to teachers in low-performing schools. Scholarships will be given when at least three teachers from their school form a cohort to complete the requirements for National Board Certification. Teachers apply for scholarships online at http://www.nbpts.org/become_a_candidate/fees_financial_support/scholarships. If you have questions about a scholarship from Chase, contact NBPTS at scholarship_manager@nbpts.org or at 1-888-908-3337.

NEWS FROM THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION (GO TO TOP)

At its meeting in Moscow today, the State Board of Education approved the following changes to Administrative Rule. These changes will be available for public comment in June.

- *IDAPA 08.02.03.004, Rules Governing Thoroughness, Incorporated by Reference*- This rule change will incorporate new Idaho Content Standards for Social Studies, Health, and Physical Education, as well as renew the Chemistry and Humanities Standards that were run as temporary rules last year. These standards are due for revision as part of the six-year curricular materials adoption cycle.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.120, Local District Evaluation Policy*- This rule change requires school district board of trustees to develop and adopt policies for teacher performance evaluation in which criteria and procedures for the evaluation of certificated personnel are research-based and aligned to Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching. The changes were recommended by the Teacher Evaluation Task Force, which was charged by the Legislature with developing minimum standards for a fair, thorough, consistent and efficient system for evaluating teacher performance in Idaho last year.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.021, Rules Governing Uniformity –Endorsements*- This rule change allows Professional-Technical Education certificated personnel to add content area endorsements. This will create opportunities to expand the number of highly qualified teachers capable of teaching in core content areas, responding to a statewide challenge in meeting federal guidelines for Highly Qualified status and teacher shortages.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.027, Rules Governing Uniformity- Pupil Personnel Services Certificate-Provisional Endorsement-School Nurse*- This rule change replaces the word "Provisional" with "Interim." This rule change is in response to



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a need for more uniform language. The term provisional is used erroneously to describe what is truly an interim certificate.

- *IDAPA 08.02.02.027, Rules Governing Uniformity, Pupil Personnel Services Certificate, Interim Endorsement-Speech Language Pathologist*- This rule change responds to a statewide challenge in meeting the shortage of qualified certificated Speech Language Pathologists. At the present time, a majority of Speech Language Pathologists are being contracted through outside agencies. This change allows districts to hire those pursuing a master's degree in speech language pathology with the hope of maintaining their services in the district once they are fully certificated.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.004, Rules Governing Uniformity, Incorporation By Reference- Online Teacher Endorsement*- This rule change comes at the request of the Professional Standards Commission and in response to the growth of online virtual schools and programs aimed at K-12 learners. It will include the proposed Idaho Teacher Standards for Online Teacher Endorsement in the Idaho Standards for the Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.024, Rules Governing Uniformity- Endorsements M-Z*- In 2005 Idaho redesigned the social studies endorsement to meet the mandate of No Child Left Behind. No longer was an interdisciplinary endorsement sufficient; content expertise was to be proven in all four of the core content areas contained within the endorsement – government, economics, geography, and history. Though the original design intended to satisfy these requirements to make social studies endorsed teachers highly qualified in all of these areas, it was not found to be acceptable by the US Department of Education (USDOE). In accordance with direction given from the USDOE, changes have been made to the endorsement to bring the integrated social studies endorsement into compliance with highly qualified status in all four of the core content areas. The proposed change will align requirements and testing to make social studies endorsed teachers highly qualified in all areas and will provide greater flexibility for districts in hiring one social studies endorsed teacher as opposed to four singly endorsed teachers.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.043 Rules Governing Uniformity, Alternative Authorization, Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement*- This rule change is necessary to assist teachers in meeting highly qualified teacher status. The traditional route to endorsement for in-service professionals seeking other endorsement areas is not sufficiently meeting the demands of school districts, particularly those in rural areas. These changes are in alignment with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and allow for additional options to attain an endorsement. The four options include traditional coursework through a college or university, National Board certification, content specific graduate degree, and standardized content testing (Praxis II) with a mentoring component and/or pedagogical assessment. These additional routes expedite the attainment of endorsements for teachers who are needed to teach in areas outside of their current endorsement.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **ISAT Summer Retest Canceled** -- The ISAT Summer Retest Opportunity for retesting 11th and 12th grade students has been canceled for Summer 2009. The decision to cancel this retest opportunity is due to the very small number of schools and districts taking advantage of this option. Students who did not meet the Spring 10th grade Graduation Test requirement will still have six (6) opportunities to retest without the Summer Retest Opportunity. The retest will be offered as scheduled in the Fall, Winter and Spring testing windows for 2009-2010.
- **ABCTE events in Idaho** -- The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) will hold informational events in Idaho in April for people interested in becoming teachers. ABCTE is a non-profit



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organization backed by the U.S. Department of Education. Candidates for ABCTE certification must hold a bachelor's degree in any subject area and pass a background check, an examination in teaching knowledge and an examination in the subject area they want to teach. In-person events will be held:

- Pocatello: Tuesday, April 14 at the Hampton Inn
- Idaho Falls: Wednesday, April 15 at the Red Lion Hotel
- Nampa: Thursday, April 16 at the Hampton Inn
- Boise: Saturday, April 18 at Red Lion Hotel Boise Downtowner

In-person sessions begin at 5:30 pm, 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm on the weekdays. Saturday sessions in Boise will begin at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon and 1 p.m. ABCTE will also hold two online information sessions Tuesday, April 21 at 5 p.m. MT and on Friday, April 24 at noon MT. To register or to learn more about the program, visit www.abcte.org.

- **IDLA Survey** -- The Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) is undertaking an in-depth program evaluation this spring that is being conducted by an outside independent contractor, Evergreen Consulting Associates. As part of this evaluation, Evergreen Consulting is asking individuals involved with the implementation and administration of IDLA in schools across the state to complete a survey about their opinions and experience with the program. IDLA thanks you for taking the time to add your valuable feedback to this process. Visit the following link to access the survey: http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=T2xqszejDQDEH6S2Fjw0Q_2fg_3d_3d.
- **Webinars on the Math Initiative** -- The State Department of Education is hosting Webinars to discuss the Idaho Math Initiative and upcoming Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) course. The Webinars will be held Thursday, April 23 at 4 p.m. MT and Thursday, April 30 at 4:30 p.m. MT. Please visit the IdahoLive web site at <http://idla.blackboard.com/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp>.
- **RTI Webinars** -- The State Department of Education will host the second in a series of Response-to-Intervention (RTI) webinars on April 27, 2009 from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. MT. The webinar, titled "District Level Leadership-Supporting a Rigorous Response to Intervention Framework," is free for Idaho educators. Credit through Boise State University is available. Pre-registration is necessary. To register, please visit us online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/staffDevelopment.htm>. If you have questions about these webinars or RTI in Idaho, please feel free to contact me at nthomasprice@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6979.
- **Overview of federal stimulus funding** -- Looking for an overview of the education provisions of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)*? The Department has released a PowerPoint presentation on guiding principles and funding availability. The ARRA contains more than \$100 billion in direct education funding for the next two fiscal years and \$39 billion in bonding authority and tax credits. For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/policy/gen/leg/recovery/presentation/>.
- **AP Test Fee Grant** -- The State Department of Education will be assisting districts by paying for AP/IB exams for low-income students. The College Board will provide information on AP Central, the AP program's online resource found at www.apcentral.collegeboard.com. Once again, registration will be online. The state will pay \$56 per AP/IB Exam for public and private school students qualifying for the College Board fee reduction. The final AP fee for qualifying students is \$0. Therefore, AP exams are provided at no cost to students. Please visit to the State Department of Education website at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/announcements.htm. For further information or call Dr. Val Schorzman at (208) 332-6920.



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- **New Census in Schools Web Site Coming Soon** -- Beginning the end of March 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau will be launching a new Census in Schools Web site. The website will incorporate information for teachers and students on using the 2010 Census in classrooms through teaching tools, resource materials, and professional development opportunities. To view the Census in Schools Web site, visit www.census.gov and click on "For Teachers & Students."
- **School Improvement Webinars** -- Here is the schedule for upcoming School Improvement Webinars:
 - April 28, 2009: Action Planning Webinar
 - May 14, 2009: Parental Involvement WebinarThe estimated time frame for all webinar sessions is 1 hour. You can register at <http://idla.blackboard.com>. Select the Idaho Live tab, and then click on "Webinar Registration." Please contact Lisa Kinnaman or Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 with any questions.
- **IEA Teacher Awards** -- Every month, September through June, the Idaho Education Association offers eight (8) \$50 awards to teacher members who are new to the profession (5 years or less). Applying is easy. Just e-mail your name and a statement of how you plan to use your Cold Hard Cash for your Classroom to ecurrie@idahoea.org. If your name is not selected this month, your entry is rolled over to the next month. Visit www.idahoea.org for more information.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **April 17, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP). To apply, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/> and click on the "2010 FFVP Applications" link. Applications must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. MT. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Herrera at (208) 332-6820 or EHerrera@sde.idaho.gov.
- **April 20, 2009** -- The deadline to register for FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health) training. FLASH is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that has been adopted and widely used by school districts in Washington and throughout the United States and Canada. The training is free and includes a copy of one FLASH 4-6 curriculum, lunch and additional training materials provided only to those that pre-register. Substitute reimbursement will be available. Register online www.centerforhealthtraining.org. Please contact Lisa Kramer at (208) 332-6947 or at lkramer@sde.idaho.gov if you have any questions.



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- **April 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit new Alternative School Summer Program applications. The Department has introduced a more user-friendly and streamlined Alternative School Application that will be used for both Regular Session Alternative Schools and Alternative Summer School Programs. The revised application is available online at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/alternative_schools/. If you have any questions regarding your Alternative School Summer Program, please contact Nick Smith at (208) 332-6959 or at NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov.
- **May 15, 2009** -- The deadline for students to apply for the Writers @ Harriman writing workshop. Thirty Idaho high school students are invited to participate in this one-week residential workshop that will be held August 2-8. Students will submit a writing sample with their application. Scholarships are available. For an application and more details, visit <http://writersatharriman.org>.