



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**April 9, 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:**

- **Department awards grants for afterschool programs**
- **JFAC approves Idaho Education Network funding**
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### **DEPARTMENT AWARDS GRANTS FOR AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS (GO TO TOP)**

The State Department of Education has awarded \$1.4 million in grants to nine afterschool programs across Idaho to help boost academic support, cultural enrichment and community involvement.

The Department awards funds through the federal Title IV-B, known as 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers (21<sup>st</sup> CCLC). The goals of 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC are to provide academic enrichment to reduce achievement gaps, offer recreation and physical activity as well as social and cultural enrichment afterschool, and to give the families of students in afterschool programs more opportunities for literacy and educational development.

“The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers programs provide a unique opportunity to address achievement gaps among Idaho students. The existing programs statewide have already demonstrated success in improving ISAT scores,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. “Afterschool programs are a great way to involve parents, volunteers and non-profit organizations in creating vibrant school communities.”

Structured, high-quality afterschool programs are a key component to preventing gang activity, drug use and delinquent behavior. Idaho 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC afterschool programs have demonstrated tremendous success in cultivating academic success among low-performing students.

The competitive grant awards for the 2009-2010 school year ranged from \$106,000 to \$249,000 and are renewable for up to five years. Awards are determined by a statewide review community and based on school and community needs, as well as the overall merit of the program proposed. Additional funds for afterschool programs are available for the 2010-2011 school year and will be awarded through a competitive process.



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A total of \$1.4 million was awarded to the following nine sites across the state:

- Blackfoot Community Center's SHARK Program: \$217,000
- Emmett School District's GEM project: \$147,571
- Glens Ferry Joint School District: \$160,506
- Homedale Elementary School: \$163,440
- Madison School District: \$249,422
- Marsing School District's KIDS program: \$151,056
- Nampa School District: \$106,611
- Plummer-Worley Joint School District: \$115,803
- Pocatello/Chubbuck School District: \$148,781

For more information about the 21<sup>st</sup> CCLC grants, please contact Matt McCarter, Coordinator of the Safe and Drug Free Schools and 21st CCLC, at (208) 332-6960 or [MAMcCarter@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MAMcCarter@sde.idaho.gov).

### **JFAC APPROVES IDAHO EDUCATION NETWORK FUNDING (GO TO TOP)**

The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) today approved the use of \$3 million in federal stimulus funding for the Idaho Education Network today. The funding came out of the \$44 million in stimulus funds the Governor had at his discretion for public safety or other government services.

“The Idaho Education Network is critical to improving Idaho’s public education system. Through this Network, every school in the state will be connected through broadband internet so we can finally break down the barriers between rural and urban schools,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. “Soon, all students regardless of where they live will have access to basic educational opportunities as well as advanced opportunities, such as dual credit college courses.”

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)**

- **House Bill 252 -- School District Financial Emergencies:** This bill relating to teacher contracts and district financial emergencies has passed the full House and the full Senate. It now heads to the Governor for approval. 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>.
- **House Bill 256 -- Student Transportation Support Program:** This bill passed the full House last week. 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.



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- Read the bill: <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2009/H0262.htm>.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will speak at the state Title I/Serve Idaho Conference awards dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 15 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho State Board of Education meeting on April 16-17 in Moscow.

### WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **ISAT Summer Retest Canceled** -- The ISAT Summer Retest Opportunity for retesting 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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.
- **School Library Impact Study** -- An Idaho School Library Impact Study is underway through April 15. The study was ordered by the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICFL) and is endorsed by the Idaho State Department of Education. The results will assess the status and impact of school library programs, facilitate discussions about their potential, and support more informed decision-making about their future. School administrators, teachers, and librarians have been submitting surveys since March 2. For more information, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/study> or contact Frank Nelson, ICFL Field Consultant, at (208) 525-7211.
- **Register for FLASH Curriculum training** -- FLASH (Family Life and Sexual Health) 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 curriculum aligns with current National Health Education Standards, which are being used to model the updates to Idaho Health Education Standards. The training will provide tools on implementing the F.L.A.S.H. curricula for Grades 4-6 along with brief overview of other grade level F.L.A.S.H. curriculum (7-12 grades and special education). 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](http://www.centerforhealthtraining.org). Please contact Lisa Kramer at (208) 332-6947 or at [lkramer@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:lkramer@sde.idaho.gov) if you have any questions.
- **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 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



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- 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](http://www.abcte.org).
- **Idaho Geographic Bee Winner** - Congratulations to Karthik Mouli, a 10-year-old at Hillside Junior High School in Boise, who won the Idaho State Geographic Bee on April 3, 2009. He earned the right to represent the state at the 2009 National Geographic Bee competition to be held May 19-20, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Karthik competed against 99 other students in 4-8 grades at the state Bee held at Boise State University. Karthik's final question: "Pula, a port city on the Adriatic Sea, is an industrial center and resort city in which country?" Answer: "Croatia". The championship round of the National Geographic Bee will air on Wednesday, May 20 on the National Geographic Channel. Students will be competing for top national prizes of college scholarships worth \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$25,000. For more information on the Bee, please visit [www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee). Congratulations to Karthik!
- **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=T2xqsztDQDEH6S2Fjw0Q\\_2fg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=T2xqsztDQDEH6S2Fjw0Q_2fg_3d_3d).

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

- **Board member Hall resigns** -- Idaho State Board of Education President Milford Terrell confirmed this week that he has been notified from the office of Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter that Board Member Blake G. Hall of Idaho Falls has resigned his position effective April 3, 2009.

Citing an increased time demand of his private legal practice as well as his many other volunteer activities, Hall offered the following; "I have very much enjoyed serving you, Governor Risch, Governor Kempthorne and the people of the Great State of Idaho as a member of the State Board of Education for almost nine years," said Hall in his letter. "As you are aware I believe periodic change in leadership is essential for the health of our institutions including the State Board of Education." Hall continued in his letter, saying, "After almost nine years as a member of the State Board of Education I believe that I have accomplished all that I can on behalf of you and your predecessors."

- **Next Board meeting** -- The Board's next regularly scheduled meeting is set for April 16-17, 2009 on the campus of the University of Idaho. To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, please visit [www.boardofed.idaho.gov](http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov).

### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS? (GO TO TOP)

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650 West State Street

Telephone  
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired  
1-800-377-3529

Fax  
208-334-2228

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### *The highlight this week is...* **Liberty Elementary School in Boise**

Sue Peck's fifth-grade class at Liberty Elementary School in Boise won Apangea Learning's national March Madness math competition. The students solved more than 3,324 math problems in March to outdo students in 350 school districts across the nation.

Apangea Learning, an online, supplemental math instruction and tutoring program, is part of the Idaho Math Initiative. The March Madness competition is part of Apangea's motivation program that rewards students for doing mathematics. For winning the competition, the students will receive a trophy, specially designed Apangea Learning March Madness T-shirts and a pizza party. In addition, officials from the Idaho State Department of Education and Apangea Learning will attend a school assembly in May to personally congratulate the students and teacher on their success.

Post Falls High School in Post Falls also made it to the Final Four round of the competition.

*"What's Happening in Our Schools?" is a feature that appears occasionally in the Weekly E-Newsletter. It is an opportunity for us to share the great things that are happening in Idaho's public schools on a statewide level. If you have something great happening in your school, please e-mail it to Melissa McGrath at [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov) with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.*

### **REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)**

- **Date Change! 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>.
- **Apply now for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** -- The State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs is opening another round of competitive applications for the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP), a great opportunity for Idaho schools and districts to offer a wider variety of fresh produce to students throughout the school day than they would normally have access to through the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. If your school or district is interested in applying, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/> and click on the "2010 FFVP Applications" link on the left side of the page. Please read the details of the program before applying. The deadline to apply is no later than **5 p.m. on April 17, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact Ed Herrera at (208) 332-6820 or [EHerrera@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:EHerrera@sde.idaho.gov). *Please note: All schools and districts must complete this application form to be eligible. The survey schools submitted earlier was not an application.*
- **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](mailto:nthomasprice@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6979.



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- **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/>.
- **IDLA improves ISAT Prep materials** -- Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) introduced new online ISAT Preparatory Review materials. Since 2005, IDLA has offered the ISAT Preparatory Review free of charge to Idaho school districts. IDLA has made significant improvements to these materials, including new interactive review content, numerous online practice quizzes and exercises, updated feedback on sample questions, and a fresh visual design. Beginning this year, we have established a simplified process for school administrators to retrieve their ISAT Preparatory login accounts. Please point your browser to <http://login.idahodigitallearning.org> and follow the simple directions to retrieve your logins. IDLA is hosting a webinar on IdahoLive to discuss the improved ISAT Prep Resources from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. MST on Tuesday, March 31, 2009. Visit [www.idahodigitallearning.org](http://www.idahodigitallearning.org) and click on the "IdahoLive" tab to learn more.
- **Spring IRI** -- This is just a reminder that the Spring Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) starts April 15, 2009. For more information, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/reading\\_indicator/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/reading_indicator/). If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Fisk or Stephanie Martin at (208) 332-6903.
- **Teacher workshops in Yellowstone** -- Yellowstone's National Park Service and the Yellowstone Association Institute are hosting teacher workshops in Yellowstone National Park. University credits and teacher in-service credits are available. The "Take it Outside" workshop is scheduled for July 27-30 at the historic Lamar Buffalo Ranch. For more information on this workshop and others, please visit [www.yellowstoneassociation.org](http://www.yellowstoneassociation.org) or call (406) 848-2400.
- **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](http://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](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/announcements.htm). For further information or call Dr. Val Schorzman at (208) 332-6920.
- **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](http://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 Webinar



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The 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.

- **Mathematics of Personal Finance Professional Development** -- Mathematics teachers wishing to use the new Mathematics of Personal Finance content standards can attend a free professional development opportunity in Boise on April 21, 2009 sponsored by the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition in partnership with the State Department of Education. These math content standards can be used as the basis for a district developed math course that will satisfy the new high school graduation requirement in mathematics for ninth graders entering school in the fall of 2009. There are five major strands to the content standards: Money Management; Savings and Investment; Education, Employment and Income; Taxation; and Data Analysis and Statistics. Free materials will be provided. For more information and online registration, please visit <http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/math/> or contact Amanda Salazar at [adsalazar@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:adsalazar@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6974.
- **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](mailto:ecurrie@idahoea.org). If your name is not selected this month, your entry is rolled over to the next month. Visit [www.idahoea.org](http://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](mailto:david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil) or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or [colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil](mailto: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](mailto:fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil).

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **April 10, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark nomination packages for the sixth annual *Preserve America* Idaho History Teacher of the Year Award, sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Idaho Council for History Education. The Idaho Council honors each state winner with an award of \$1,000. All elementary (K-6) teachers who have responsibility for teaching American history are eligible this year. Please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social\\_studies/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/) for more information.
- **April 15, 2009** -- The deadline for Idaho school districts and public charter schools to submit requests for proposals for Learn and Serve grant funding. Please review application information available online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn\\_serve](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn_serve). If you have questions or need assistance, please contact Tina Naillon, Learn and Serve Coordinator, at (208) 332-6904 or [TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov).



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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/](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](mailto: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>.