



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 14, 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

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STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IS ON THE RISE ACROSS IDAHO (GO TO TOP)

Two-thirds of Idaho public schools met statewide student achievement goals this year, up from just one-fourth of Idaho schools two years ago, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced this week.

"This is a great day for Idaho. We have raised the bar, and more Idaho students are rising to the challenge," Superintendent Luna said. "I commend all of Idaho's talented educators, dedicated parents and hardworking students for their achievements. We will continue to raise the bar and strive to ensure every student is prepared to succeed in the 21st century."

Under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Idaho is required to calculate and report the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) of every public school, based on results of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test, or ISAT. The ISAT is the statewide standardized test that measures student performance in reading, mathematics and language usage in grades 3-8 and 10. Students also take the Science ISAT in grades 5, 7 and 10, but those scores are not counted toward AYP.

During the 2008-2009 school year, 432 public schools made AYP during the most recent school year, up from 363 schools the previous year. In the 2006-2007 school year, just 168 schools made AYP.

Here is how Idaho schools performed over the past two school years:

	<u>2006-2007</u>	<u>2007-2008</u>	<u>2008-2009</u>
Made AYP	168 schools (26.83%)	363 schools (56.02%)	432 schools (66.26%)
Did Not Make AYP	458 schools (73.16%)	285 schools (43.98%)	220 schools (33.74%)



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To make AYP, a school must meet statewide student achievement goals in 41 different target areas during a given school year. The 41 targets include students in the entire school, students with disabilities, students with limited English proficiency and students who are economically disadvantaged.

For AYP results by the school, district or state level, please visit <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/saa/ayp.asp>.

SUCCESS STORIES IN IDAHO (GO TO TOP)

The following are a just a few examples of the many great success stories we have seen throughout the state as Idaho's dedicated and hardworking educators have strived to raise student achievement.

Minico Senior High School in Minidoka County School District:

Minico Senior High School was one of three schools to make AYP for the first time this year. The school and entire district implemented a number of programs to help raise student achievement. For example, the high school adopted the C-Core Policy, which means every student must earn a C grade or higher before moving on. The school also established math, science and English labs after school for students who needed extra assistance and offered quality professional development for educators focusing on improving student achievement. Superintendent Scott Rogers said, "The most important variable has to be a highly skilled, hard-working, and dedicated staff of teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals, and support personnel. It truly takes a village."

Nampa School District:

Students in the Nampa School District have made tremendous strides over the past three years. After the state raised the bar in 2007, none of the schools in the Nampa School District made AYP. Now, just two years later, 14 schools have met AYP. "We are excited to see the number of schools reaching all state goals more than double this year and thrilled that several schools have moved out of 'needs improvement' status," said Allison Westfall, spokeswoman for the Nampa School District. "Our teachers and administrators are focused on improving achievement by addressing the needs of individual students and using research to guide their efforts. We can see the fruits of our labor in these results and in our students."

Century High School in Pocatello School District:

Century High School in Pocatello made AYP for the second year in a row this year. The Pocatello School District developed professional learning communities at each school to give teachers and other staff the opportunity to discuss ways to improve student achievement. The school board approved early release time for students once every other week to ensure teachers had time to collaborate. In addition, the district underwent a total instructional alignment, where Pocatello teachers reviewed the state standards in reading, math and language arts, clarified the meaning of the standards, and developed assessments for teachers to measure student learning in the classroom throughout the school year. The school district credits the great teaching staff and leadership of Century High School for its success!

Lakeside Middle School in Plummer-Worley School District:

Lakeside Middle School made AYP for the second year in a row this year. "All the credit goes to a great staff, great teachers and great paraprofessionals really focusing on improvement for all children," said Principal Bill Burns. Over the past two years, the staff at Lakeside Middle has started focusing on each student making individual improvement



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and striving for his/her personal best. Students at Lakeside Middle develop goal sheets, are aware of where they are academically and now pay more attention to what they need to do to reach their goals. The school is also a part of the statewide Idaho Building Capacity Project, which provides a coach to give the school one-on-one technical assistance and resources throughout the school year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho Bureau of Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind (IBESDB) at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, August 17 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Board of Land Commissioners meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho State Board of Education meeting on August 20-21 in Pocatello.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Annual Superintendents' Meeting presentations now posted** -- All presentations and handouts from the 2009 Annual Superintendents' Meeting are now posted on the State Department of Education web site at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/meetings_events/. The archived webinars of each session will be posted next week.
- **IRI testing window** -- The Fall IRI testing window begins August 24 and ends September 30. The reporting window closes on October 15. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Fisk, Reading Coordinator, at JFisk@sde.idaho.gov.
- **United States Senate Youth Program** -- The State Department of Education requests your assistance in administering the 2010 United States Senate Youth Program funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. The cooperation of high school principals is crucial to assure that all qualified Idaho students have the opportunity to participate in this unique scholarship program. Each year, two outstanding student leaders from Idaho are selected as delegates to the program where they will travel to Washington, DC with all expenses paid and view their federal government in action, meet with national leaders on Capitol Hill, at the White House, the Supreme Court, the Pentagon and the State Department. Each student also receives a one-time \$5,000 undergraduate college scholarship from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Principals in every high school were mailed a packet of information on August 10, 2009 explaining the scholarship process, timelines for completion, and student eligibility requirements. State-level deadline for submission of materials is October 30, 2009. Thank you again for your assistance in providing this unique opportunity for your high school students. Should you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.



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

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced the appointment today of Emma Atchley of Ashton – a former classroom teacher and school trustee with deep roots in eastern Idaho community and business life – to fill the State Board of Education vacancy left by the resignation of Blake Hall of Idaho Falls.

Atchley, 62, is a Boise native with a bachelor's degree from the University of Idaho and a master's degree with Claremont Graduate School in California. She is a board of directors member for the Bank of Idaho, Teton Regional Land Trust, Flying A Ranch Inc., Cea Corp., and Ashton Hi-Tech Seed Co.

Her appointment extends until March 1, 2010 – the balance of Hall's unexpired term.

"We get a lot of value for our education dollar in Idaho, and I want to help continue that," she said. "I have been involved with education, K through 12, as a school board member; I've been a schoolteacher; I've been involved with setting up education foundations and with higher education as well. So I think I bring a broad perspective to the board – from parents to taxpayers."

Atchley taught at North Fremont High School in Ashton from 1970 through 1972. She was a trustee in the Fremont County Joint School District from 1976 through 1980, and has served on the North Fremont High School Advisory Committee, the North Fremont Education Foundation, and the University of Idaho Alumni Association Board of Directors. She also is a University of Idaho Foundation member and has served on the Fremont County Republican Central Committee, the Potato Growers of Idaho and the U.S. Potato Board.

She and her husband, Clen Atchley, have lived in Ashton since 1970. They have two grown daughters.

"I couldn't be happier that Emma has agreed to take on this new responsibility," Governor Otter said. "They say if you want something done, find a busy person to do it. Well, Emma fits that bill and then some. Her community involvement in everything from the Girl Scouts to the Ashton Rotary, her professional and business activities, and her education background make her an ideal choice for this important and demanding job."

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **New Grant Reimbursement Application training now posted** -- Did you miss the webinar training on the new Grant Reimbursement Application? Check out an archived copy of the webinar on our web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/accounting/>. The new Grant Reimbursement Application now incorporates the reporting requirements for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding.
- **Attendance and Enrollment Training Workshops** -- Here are the dates and locations of the 2009 Attendance and Enrollment Training Workshops:
 - Boise: Friday, September 18, State Department of Education offices, Barbara Morgan Conference Room
 - Coeur d'Alene: Wednesday, September 23, Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street
 - Lewiston: Thursday, September 24, Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street
 - Blackfoot: Tuesday, September 29, Performing Arts Center, Blackfoot High School, 870 S Fisher Ave



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- Jerome: Wednesday, September 30, Jerome Middle School, 520 10th Ave. West
Registration forms and other materials for the workshops are posted online at:
http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/training.htm. If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Greg Berg at GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Conference for Hispanic students and parents** -- The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs is hosting the "Emerging Hispanic Students and Parents in Education" conference from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 20-21, 2009 at the Best Western Caldwell Inn & Suites. The conference will focus on academic transitions, cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural competency and parental involvement. The conference is open to counselors, administrators, paraprofessionals, superintendents and anyone working directly with Hispanic students who would benefit from this training. For more information, contact Juan Saldana at (208) 334-2147 or juan.saldana@icah.idaho.gov.
- **Data Acquisition Calendar now posted** -- The 2009-2010 Data Acquisition Calendar is now available on the State Department of Education's web site. Please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/administrators.htm> and click the link in the menu on the left of the screen. This calendar provides the various due dates required by state and federal laws, rules and regulations.
- **Update IDCI Database** -- School and district officials are encouraged to visit the Idaho District Contact Information database and update all contact information for the upcoming school year. Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/data_collection.htm and click on the "Idaho District Contact Information" link. Instructions for using IDCI are posted at the top of the web page.
- **Free Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Services** - The Council on Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the availability of expert person-centered planning facilitators around Idaho. Thirteen people have just completed intensive training to become Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Specialists and will work with adults and transition-age youth (14-18) with developmental disabilities who live in Idaho communities. Person-centered planning is a valuable tool used to help individuals with developmental disabilities create a plan for support and services that is focused on their life goals and dreams. This service is free to individuals and their families. Contact information for PCP Specialists can be found at <http://www.idahocdh.org/dnn/personcenteredplanning>.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **August 15, 2009** – The Title I-A Annual Performance Report is due from all LEAs. Please complete this report online at this website:
<https://www.sde.idaho.gov/datacollection/title1apr/>. The report can be found via our Title I website underneath the Title I-A Annual Reports' subheading and through the Data Collection website. You will need a separate password however, in order to access your report, which is separate from the CIP Tool and WISE Tool. Please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov if you should have any questions or if you need to know your Title I-A Annual Performance Report password.
- **August 15, 2009** – The Title I-A Summer Extended Time Report is due from all LEAs that had summer or extended programs during the 2008-2009 school year. The report is located as a word document on our Title I



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website underneath the Title I-A Annual Reports' subheading that expands when you select it (towards the bottom of the screen) http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/. Please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov if you should have any questions about this report.

- **August 15, 2009** – The Title I, Part D, Subparts 1 and 2 Neglected or Delinquent Evaluations for State agencies and Local Education Agencies are due from all State agencies and LEAs which received Title I, Part D funds for the 2008-2009 school year. Please complete this report found on the Neglected or Delinquent website at this location: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/neglected/>. Instructions are also posted with the evaluations. The report can be found as a separate subheading under Surveys. Please mail and submit your completed report to Tyrel Trainor, Administrative Assistant, NCLB Idaho State Department of Education PO Box 83720 Boise, ID 83720-0027. You may also contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov if you should have any questions.
- **October 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for awards up to \$500 for Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. All educators are eligible for the awards. Each teacher must submit a short application describing the continuing education opportunity or class project, an itemized budget, and the academic benefit for students. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at www.nwpe.org. All awards are competitive.
- **December 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. Teachers new to their district or grade level are eligible for the awards. Each teacher submits a short application describing their needs for setting up their classroom. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at www.nwpe.org. All awards are competitive.
- **September 30, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the American Association of School Administrators National Superintendent of the Year Program, which pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation's public schools. The maximum award is \$10,000. For more information, please visit <http://www.aasa.org/awards/content1.cfm?ItemNumber=890>.
- **November 20, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark an application for the 2009 Qwest Foundation for Education Grant, which is awarded to Idaho K-12 public school classroom educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm to download the application form. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or JTakata@sde.idaho.gov.