



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

August 21, 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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UPCOMING IBEDS/HQT/ARRA TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES (GO TO TOP)

Based on the request of local school districts, the State Department of Education has expanded the 2010 IBEDS/HQT Data Collection workshops to include training sessions on the ARRA funding and reporting requirements. Please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/IBEDSTraining.htm> to register for these workshops online.

Here are the dates and locations for the workshops. All meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.:

- **Wednesday, September 2nd ~ Coeur d'Alene School District**
Midtown Meeting Center, 1505 North 5th Street, Coeur d'Alene, ID
- **Thursday, September 3rd ~ Lewiston School District**
Lewiston Dist Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street, Lewiston, ID
- **Friday, September 4th ~ McCall School District (Myrna & Kathy)**
Barbara Morgan Elementary, 125 N. Samson Trail, McCall, ID
- **Wednesday, September 9th ~ Blackfoot School District**
Blackfoot Performing Arts Center, 870 South Fisher, Blackfoot, ID
- **Thursday, September 10th ~ Pocatello School District**
Pocatello District Office, 3115 Pole Line Road, Pocatello, ID
- **Friday, September 11th ~ Twin Falls School District**
Vera O'Leary Jr High School, 2349 Elizabeth Blvd, Twin Falls, ID
- **Monday, September 14th ~ State Department of Education**
Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 West State, Boise, ID
- **Tuesday, September 15th ~ State Department of Education**
Barbara Morgan Conference Room, 650 West State, Boise, ID



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COMMENT ON MIDDLE LEVEL CREDIT SYSTEM (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education is now accepting public comments on the proposed Middle Level Credit System.

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and the Idaho State Board of Education created the Idaho Middle Level Task Force in 2007 to find ways to increase student achievement in the middle grades. Among several recommendations, task force members proposed Idaho implement a credit system in the middle grades to increase accountability and ensure students are prepared to go on and succeed in high school.

The Idaho State Board of Education initially approved the Middle Level Credit System in June. The proposed change is now open for public comment until August 26 and will return to the State Board for final approval in October 2009. If approved, the credit system will be implemented in Fall 2010. Under the proposed credit system, the state would set minimum requirements and give Idaho school districts the flexibility to implement a credit system that meets the needs of each local community.

Deputy Superintendent Rob Sauer has been hosting town hall meetings across Idaho to discuss the Middle Level Credit System. He will be in Post Falls from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on August 24, 2009 at Post Falls Middle School. He will be in Kooskia from 11 a.m. to noon on August 25, 2009 at Clearwater Valley Jr-Sr High School.

The public also has the opportunity to comment on other proposed changes to administrative rule, including the online teacher endorsement, driver's education manual and alternate assessment.

To submit comments, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/augBulletin.asp>.

UPDATES TO H1N1 INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education is working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to update the H1N1 information webpage online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/flu/>. Please check the page next week for the most up-to-date information to help you prepare for potential Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza cases in schools. School-age children are particularly susceptible to the H1N1 virus, creating the potential for large numbers of cases with more hospitalizations and deaths among younger age groups.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is taking the steps necessary to provide H1N1 flu vaccine for possible use in the fall. However, the vaccine will not be available for several weeks after the school year starts. At this time, with what we know now about the H1N1 virus, schools will not be closed based on individual cases; however, high absenteeism in school(s) may lead to closures to stop the outbreak from becoming unmanageable.

To prepare and prevent the spread of disease right now, we recommend the following:

- Update your emergency plans and ensure all your contact lists are up to date. For more information visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/flu/>.
- Develop response and communications plans to ensure that students or staff with fever or flu-like symptoms do not come to school or are sent home.



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- Encourage staff to stay home when they are sick.
- Advise parents to develop contingency plans should their children become sick and need to stay home or in the event of school closure.
- Advise parents not to send their sick children to a childcare setting.

Stay up-to-date with current conditions by visiting www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/ or <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/flu/>.

If you have any questions, please contact the local health district in your area. For a full list of contacts, please visit <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/HealthDistricts/tabid/97/default.aspx>.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for North Star Charter School at 5 p.m. on Thursday, August 27 in Eagle.
- Superintendent Luna will join Governor Otter and Office of Energy Resources Administrator Paul Kjellander at 9:30 a.m. on Friday, August 28 to introduce a K-12 school energy efficiency program at Homedale High School, 203 E. Idaho Ave., in Homedale.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Register now for Federal Program Directors' Meeting** -- The 2009 Federal Programs Director's Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise. To learn more about the meeting and to register, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/. The deadline to register is **September 8, 2009**.
- **Apply for Training for Idaho Instructional Leaders** -- The Training for Idaho Instructional is a professional development opportunity focused on improving instruction and open to administrators and staff from schools and districts requesting assistance with their school improvement efforts. Districts and schools in Needs Improvement status are invited to apply for participation in this training, which spans four training days during the 2009-10 school year and provides on-site support from an implementation coach. Participating sites will send a team of four to five exemplary educational leaders to attend this series of trainings. These trainings will focus on: Effective Teaming, Instructional Planning & Delivery, Classroom Culture, Collegial Learning. To learn more or to apply, please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/ILT.html>. Applications must be received by 5 p.m on **September 10, 2009**. If you have questions, please contact Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 or katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu.
- **Constitution Day is September 17** -- In 2004, the United States Congress enacted Public Law 108-447, Section 111(b) requiring that *"each educational institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution."* Idaho's legislators throughout the years have recognized the importance of understanding the United States Constitution as a living document and its impact on our everyday lives by adopting Idaho Code 33-1602, *"instruction in the Constitution of the United States shall be given in all elementary and secondary schools"*. Additionally, Idaho Code 73-108B identifies that, *"September 17 shall be designated as constitutional*



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commemorative day.” As a result, all local education agencies receiving federal funds must teach about the U.S. Constitution on September 17th of each year. A list of available resources to help you design an instructional program for Constitution Day is available at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/.

- **Educator Training for alternative school staff** -- *Making Proud Choices!* is a curriculum that integrates teen pregnancy prevention along with HIV/STD prevention. *Making Proud Choices A Safer Sex Approach to STDs Teen Pregnancy and HIV/Prevention Curriculum* is a curriculum that provides young adolescents with the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and pregnancy. A training session will be held October 7-8, 2009. To learn more or to register, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/csh/. If you have questions, contact Lisa Kramer, HIV/Health Education Coordinator, at (208) 332-6947 or lkramer@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Child Nutrition Direct Certification webinar** -- The State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs is hosting a webinar on Direct Certification from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. MT on Thursday, August 27, 2009. The new electronic process will take the place of the traditional Direct Certification letter received in past years. The great news is that because the state agency created the database with Food Stamp and TAFI recipients, sponsors have a very good chance of making a match. It is extremely important you learn the process for getting a user name and password to this highly confidential program. The webinar will cover this process. This is an open webinar, and we encourage you to invite anyone that may benefit from this training. To access your Idaho Live session, go to the IdahoLive tab of the IDLA website at www.idahodigitallearning.org and click on "Aspen Room" on the left hand side of the page.

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

The Idaho State Board of Education approved all State Department of Education agenda items at its meeting in Pocatello on Thursday, August 20. Here are the highlights of the rules the Board approved:

- **Teacher Performance Evaluation Framework:** Pending Rule – Docket 08-0202-901- Local District Evaluation Policy
This change in administrative rule establishes statewide minimum standards for a fair, thorough, consistent and efficient system for evaluating teacher performance in Idaho based on Dr. Charlotte Danielson’s Framework For Teaching. The framework groups teachers’ responsibilities into four major areas, which are clearly defined, and then further divided into components that highlight the practice of effective teaching. This rule was approved for the second time by the State Board of Education and will now proceed to the Legislature for approval in January.
- **MTI Course Requirement-** Proposed Change to IDAPA 08.02.02.016, Rules Governing Uniformity- Idaho Educator Credential
A professional development opportunity has been developed in a three-credit credit course called Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI). Participants in the course increase both their content knowledge and their pedagogical knowledge. Through this rule change, teachers and administrators will be required take the MTI course prior to September 1, 2014 in order to recertify. This rule was approved by the State Board of Education and will now proceed to public comment in October.



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- **Math Consulting Endorsement Rule-** Proposed Change to IDAPA 08.02.02.029, Rules Governing Uniformity- Consulting Teacher Endorsements.

In addition to the Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) course, research shows that in order for a professional development opportunity to be successfully implemented, follow-up opportunities must be made available. As part of the Math Initiative, the follow-up support includes working closely with regional math specialists and district instructional coaches. To ensure qualified educators are conducting this additional follow-up support, a mathematical consulting teacher endorsement has been developed. This rule was approved by the State Board of Education and will now proceed to public comment in October.

REMINDERS (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/. To access archived sessions of the IdahoLive webinars, please visit www.idahodigitallearning.org, click on the "IdahoLive" tab, and click on the "2009 Annual Superintendents' Meeting" link under the Archived Categories section on the left side of the page.
- **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.
- **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
 - Jerome: Wednesday, September 30, Jerome Middle School, 520 10th Ave. WestRegistration 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



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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.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **September 8, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the 2009 Federal Programs Director's Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise. To register, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/.
- **October 30, 2009** -- **The deadline to submit your application for the 2010 United States Senate Youth Program** funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Principals in every high school were mailed a packet of information in August explaining the scholarship process, timelines for completion, and student eligibility requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **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.