



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**February 19, 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:**

- **Update on the federal stimulus package**
- **Apply now for Idaho Reads! VISTA grants**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **News from the State Board of Education**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **IDAHO LIKELY TO RECEIVE MORE THAN \$300 MILLION FOR EDUCATION (GO TO TOP)**

Preliminary estimates from the Congressional Research Service (CRS) show Idaho is set to receive approximately \$301 million in federal stimulus money for public education. (The CRS estimates initially showed Idaho would receive \$346 million in total for education, but further guidance showed that the Governor will have the discretion to use about 18 percent of that funding for public safety and other government services, which could include school modernization and renovation projects.) Of the \$301 million specifically dedicated to education, it is estimated that \$198.5 million will go toward stabilizing state education budgets for FY2009, FY2010 and FY2011. The remainder will be used for titled programs, such as Title I-A and special education funding.

After Congress passed the stimulus package last week, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna immediately began working with the Governor's office and the Idaho Legislature to determine how this money will be allocated to help keep the public schools budget whole this year and next fiscal year. Superintendent Luna has put his proposal for \$62 million in budget reductions for FY2010 on hold. The Legislature also postponed public hearings on legislation that would have helped implement those budget reductions until the federal government is able to provide clearer guidance on how and when stimulus dollars may be used.

Here is a breakdown of the estimated \$301 million in education-related funding for Idaho:

- \$198.5 million for stabilization to offset state budget cuts to K-12 and higher education
- \$34.6 million for Title I-A
- \$10.6 million for School Improvement Grants
- \$3.1 million for Title II-D education technology (EETT grants)
- \$191,000 for McKinney-Vento homeless assistance
- \$54 million for IDEA



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

This information as well as district-by-district breakdowns of the Title I-A and IDEA funding are available online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/schoolsbudget/>.

Governor Otter issued an executive order this week to create a "stimulus executive committee" that will be appointed by the Governor to review state agency information and make recommendations within 30 days on how to best use the federal money designated for Idaho in the federal law. Those recommendations will be due by the close of business on March 19. Each state agency, including the State Department of Education, will have until noon on March 4 to submit information to the Governor on how it anticipates using stimulus funds applicable to its mission, in accordance with state law and the Idaho Constitution's mandate to provide a balanced state budget.

We will keep you posted on Superintendent Luna's proposal via this newsletter and the State Department of Education's web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/schoolsbudget/>.

### **APPLY NOW FOR IDAHO READS! VISTA GRANTS (GO TO TOP)**

The Idaho State Department of Education is now accepting applications for *Idaho Reads!* VISTA grants, which help to improve literacy and volunteerism in communities across Idaho.

The State Department of Education awards 30 Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) positions each year. Through the *Idaho Reads!* VISTA project, the 30 schools select a person who will coordinate a variety of activities to promote family literacy and improve children's reading skills. Here are some of the ways volunteers promote reading and literacy in their communities:

- Recruiting, training and coordinating part-time literacy volunteers.
- Organizing and conducting family literacy or parent involvement activities.
- Organizing, conducting or participating locally in a statewide book drive.
- Helping to organize or implement a summer reading program.
- Building partnerships with local public and private-sector organizations and businesses.
- Soliciting donations and other in-kind support for the project.
- Writing the grant applications for funding or other resources.

The *Idaho Reads!* VISTA project encourages the community to get involved in making sure every child is reading successfully by third grade. VISTA, which was established by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

VISTA members are recruited locally by the schools that receive VISTA grants. The schools are responsible for providing office space and other support for volunteers. Volunteers receive a monthly living allowance and can also receive an education voucher for their year of service.

The deadline to apply is **March 15, 2009**. Applications must be postmarked by this date. For more information or to download an application, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/vista/>.

If you have any questions, please contact Tina Naillon, Idaho VISTA Coordinator, at (208) 332-6904 or [TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:TMNaillon@sde.idaho.gov).



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)

- **Governor and JFAC order additional FY2009 holdbacks:** The Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) issued additional holdbacks for FY2009 and provided more guidance for budget projections in FY2010 on Friday, February 13. Here is a summary of the announcements:
  - **For FY2009:** The Governor announced an additional 2% holdback for the current FY2009. While this holdback will impact the State Department of Education and other state agencies, the Public Schools Budget will be held harmless. This additional 2% holdback -- equivalent to \$28 million -- will be taken from the Public Education Stabilization Fund (PESF).
  - **For FY2010:** JFAC announced projections for FY2010 based on the new revenue projections they have from January. As a result of worsening economic conditions, JFAC said the Public Schools Budget in FY2010 will be reduced by \$62 million in funding and reduced by an additional 5% in base personnel costs. This means that the base salaries for school personnel will be cut an additional 5% in FY2010.
  - **Please note:** Superintendent Luna is working with the Governor's office, legislators and educational stakeholders to determine how these announcements will be affected since the federal stimulus package was approved by Congress and signed into law by President Obama.
- **House and Senate Education Committees postpone joint hearings:** The House and Senate Education Committee Chairmen announced late last week they would postpone public hearings on two pieces of legislation introduced on February 12. The legislation, regarding transportation and school personnel salaries, would have helped implement the proposed reductions to the public schools budget. The hearings were postponed until legislators could learn more about how the stimulus package will impact Idaho.
- **Governor creates stimulus executive committee:** Governor Otter issued an executive order this week to create a "stimulus executive committee" that will be appointed by the Governor to review state agency information and make recommendations within 30 days on how to best use the federal money designated for Idaho in the federal law. Those recommendations will be due by the close of business on March 19. To view the entire executive order, please visit <http://www.gov.idaho.gov/>.

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

- Superintendent Luna will attend a State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, February 26 and Friday, February 27 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Governor's Capital for a Day event in Wendell on Friday, February 27. He is scheduled to visit Wendell Elementary School at noon to speak with teachers during the Wendell School District's in-service day.

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

---

Office Location  
650 West State Street

Telephone  
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired  
1-800-377-3529

Fax  
208-334-2228

---



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **Governor announces Innovative Grant recipients** -- The Governor announced the recipients of the 2008-09 Innovative Grants. The full list is online at <http://www.gov.idaho.gov/InnovativeGrantRecipients.pdf>. Congratulations to all the recipients!
- **Preliminary DMA/DWA results available for schools** -- Preliminary results of the Idaho 2008-2009 Direct Math and Direct Writing Assessment results are now available for school districts and charter schools to review. Please access the results on the Department's secure website at <https://seciis.sde.state.id.us/dmwa/default.asp> using your district testing password. If you are missing student scores, notice students listed that don't belong in your district or school, or have further questions about the results, please notify the Department by e-mail or fax no later than **March 4, 2009**. You have until this date to verify the results. For the DWA, contact Liz Smith at [EMSmith@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:EMSmith@sde.idaho.gov). For the DMA, contact Cindy Johnstone at [CMJohnstone@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CMJohnstone@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Free Parenting Seminar** -- Celebrated parenting columnist and lecturer Sandy Spurgeon McDaniel is offering her outstanding 90 parenting seminar, "Stop Feeding Your Dragon," a lively presentation focused on how to discipline today's child. With 48 years of research/experience/teaching, she brings practical solutions to the every-day problems that plague today's parents. Sandy plans to move to the Boise area to live close to her Meridian-based grandchildren, so this highly sought after educator is offering this no-cost seminar on a first-booked-first- have basis during the weeks of February 23-27, and April 27-May 1. Contact her at [sandy@sandymcdaniel.com](mailto:sandy@sandymcdaniel.com) or (949) 642-3605. Check out Sandy's credentials/testimonials/philosophy/credibility at [sandymcdaniel.com](http://sandymcdaniel.com).
- **Science Competition Day** -- High school students from Idaho and Eastern Oregon will compete for plaques, medals, trophies and two \$18,000 scholarships to Boise State University during Science Competition Day on Saturday, Feb. 28. The annual event is an academic challenge that tests students' knowledge in biology, chemistry, engineering, geosciences, math and physics. The deadline for student applications and payments (\$5 for the luncheon) has been extended to **Friday, February 20**. More information is available at <http://coen.boisestate.edu/sciday>.

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

FAFSA Completion Day will be held Saturday, February 21 at various locations across the state. This day offers students interested in going on to postsecondary education the opportunity to get assistance in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. The FAFSA is the first step in the financial aid process. Students can use FAFSA to apply for federal student financial aid, such as the Pell Grant, student loans and college work-study. In addition, most states and institutions of higher education use the FAFSA information to award their financial aid.

Find a Completion Day location near you online at <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships/fafsacomp.asp>. Also, be sure to bring the following documents with you to complete the application process:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your driver's license (if any)
- Your 2008 W-2 Forms and other records of money earned
- Your (and your spouse's, if you are married) 2008 Federal Income Tax Return.
- IRS 1040, 1040A, 1040 EZ
- Foreign Tax Return

---

Office Location  
650 West State Street

Telephone  
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired  
1-800-377-3529

Fax  
208-334-2228

---



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- Your Parents' 2008 Federal Income Tax return (if you are a dependent student)
- Your 2008 untaxed income records
- Social Security
- Veterans benefits records
- Your current balance of savings, checking, and cash on hand as of today
- Your current business and investment mortgage information, business and farm records, stocks, bond and other investment records
- Your alien registration or permanent resident card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Sample Senior Projects now available** -- As part of the new high school graduation requirements, students in the Class of 2013 will be required to complete a senior project by the end of their senior year. To assist local school districts in this implementation, the State Department of Education is posting samples of quality senior project models that several school districts around the state have already implemented. The samples are posted online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/hs\\_grad\\_requirements/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/hs_grad_requirements/). For more information on the new high school graduation requirements, please visit the web site or contact Deputy Superintendent Nick Smith at (208) 332-6959 or [NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Forestry Professional Development Opportunities** -- Idaho Project Learning Tree's spring/summer workshop schedule is at [www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm). A variety of professional development classes are offered throughout the state, each worth one graduate credit. Contact 208-334-4061 or [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org) for more information.
- **Forest Products Commission Newsletters available** -- The popular *EarthTracks* newsletter, full of environmental education news and opportunities, including spring and summer workshop schedules from Project's Learning Tree, WILD and WET and the Idaho Rangeland Resource Commission is now available at [www.idahoforests.org/news.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/news.htm). Also at this location is "The Log," the forest education update from Idaho Forest Products Commission.
- **Forest History Supplement** -- *The Idaho Forest: From Lumberjacks to Lasersaws* is available to Idaho teachers, free of charge. Preview the student reader and teacher guide at [www.idahoforests.org/lumberjacks.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/lumberjacks.htm). Contact the Idaho Forest Products Commission at [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org) or **800-ID-WOODS** to request a classroom set (30 unless you specify otherwise) of Student Readers and a Teacher Guide.
- **Apply now for Sustainable Forestry Tour for teachers and counselors** -- This trip of a lifetime explores north-central Idaho forests and the full circle of making products from trees while sustaining forest ecosystems—All while providing you with the VIP treatment you deserve as an educator. All expenses paid. Learn more and apply online at [www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/tour.htm).
- **Environmental Education conference** -- The Idaho Environmental Education Association is hosting its annual conference in Pocatello March 6-7, 2009. There will be a field trip to Pocatello Charter School, including a tour of



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

the school's solar installation. Idaho Power will be there to answer questions about the Solar 4R Schools program. To sign up for the conference, please visit [www.idahoee.org](http://www.idahoee.org).

- **Charter School Dissemination Grants** -- As part of the federal Charter School Program grant, three high-performing charter schools in Idaho have received dissemination grants to share their best practices with other public schools, including other public charter schools, about how to create and sustain high-quality, accountable schools. More information on these grants and the high-performing charter schools is available online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/charter\\_schools/dissemination.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/charter_schools/dissemination.htm).
- **Financial Literacy Education program** -- The Office of State Treasurer Ron Crane is offering the “ABC’s of Credit Card Finance”, a free program designed to educate high school seniors about the do’s, don’ts, and pitfalls of credit card ownership. Given the difficult economic times, this next generation needs to be armed with as many financial tools as possible. The presentation is about one hour in length and includes information such as essential credit card facts, choosing and using a credit card, understanding a credit report and score, consequences of irresponsible credit card use, and identity theft. If your school is interested in scheduling a presentation, please visit [www.sto.idaho.gov/Programs/CreditCardFinance.aspx](http://www.sto.idaho.gov/Programs/CreditCardFinance.aspx) or contact Jennifer Hobbs in the State Treasurer’s Office at (208) 332-2963 or email [Jennifer.Hobbs@sto.idaho.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Hobbs@sto.idaho.gov).
- **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)

- **Feb. 23, 2009** -- The deadline to register to attend the *Charter Start! 101* workshop in March. The workshop helps parents, educators and other patrons learn more about public charter schools and what it takes to start a school. Workshop attendance is now a statutory requirement for all charter developers. The workshop will be held March 2-3, 2009 in Boise. To register, please visit <http://sdestatic.sde.idaho.gov/forms/charter/>.
- **Feb. 27, 2009** -- The deadline to submit a proposal for a Workforce Investment Act grant. to the Governor's Workforce Development Council for training low-income, at-risk high school students for the good-paying occupations that will be demanded by the high-growth industries of Idaho’s economic future. Over \$560,000 in



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

one-year Workforce Investment Act grants will be awarded on a regional basis. The grants must be matched by participating school districts, either in cash or through in-kind contributions such as staff time or facilities. Written proposals must be submitted to the Department of Labor by **February 27, 2009**. For complete RFP and submittal instructions, please visit [www.labor.idaho.gov](http://www.labor.idaho.gov) and click on the "What's News" link.

- **March 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Idaho Power's Solar 4R Schools program. Schools must be Idaho Power customers. Successful applicants will receive, at no cost, a 1.1 KW solar array, data monitoring and a curriculum package. Please visit <http://www.idahopower.com/greenpower/solar4Rschools/default> for more information.
- **March 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for a summer internship or freshman scholarship in the Idaho State University Physics department. Interns will spend four weeks in laboratories of the ISU Physics Department or the Idaho Accelerator Center, where they have the opportunity to work with premier particle accelerator facilities. Interns will be provided room and board on campus and earn \$8.50 an hour. For more information, please visit [www.physics.isu.edu](http://www.physics.isu.edu).
- **March 2, 2009** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the \$10,000 Freida J. Riley Teacher Award, which honors an American teacher who works with a physical disability, teaches in an especially challenging educational environment or has performed a heroic act by making an exceptional, personal or physical sacrifice on behalf of students. To learn more, please visit [www.columbusfdn.org/freidajriley/RileyNomination2009.pdf](http://www.columbusfdn.org/freidajriley/RileyNomination2009.pdf).
- **March 12, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators, which offers scholarships for educators in public and private schools to take college courses. Please visit <http://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx> for more information.
- **March 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the new Idaho LEP Program of Excellence award, which recognizes outstanding schools or districts in this area, or the LEP Educator of the Year award, which recognizes outstanding educators who work with LEP students and families. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on this date. Please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/lep/> to learn more.
- **March 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for mini-grants from the Idaho National Laboratory (INL). A teacher can apply for up to \$2,000 in grants, and schools can apply for up to \$10,000. For more information, please visit [https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=2247&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=11&mode=2&in\\_hi\\_userid=200&cached=true](https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=2247&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=11&mode=2&in_hi_userid=200&cached=true).
- **March 15, 2009** -- The deadline for students to enter the Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge. Middle school student teams from across the country will be challenged to create sustainable, reproducible environmental improvements in their local communities. Visit <http://www.wecanchange.com> to learn more.
- **March 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Northwest Professional Educators' awards for continuing education scholarships and classroom support for materials, technology, projects, etc. Additionally, teachers new to the profession, their grade level, or their school district may apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants to assist with classroom expenses. To apply for any of these awards, visit [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org) for applications.



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

- **April 1, 2009** -- The deadline for creating Unique Student IDs using the statewide Unique Student ID System for enrolled students. After this date, the Unique Student IDs need to be kept up to date for ISAT tests and other reporting purposes. For more information about the Unique Student ID creation process, refer to the Unique Student ID web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/usid/index.htm>. As of today, 66 districts/charter schools have created Unique Student IDs, and 177,903 students have Unique Student IDs assigned. If you have questions, please contact Rene Hughes at [rhughes@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:rhughes@sde.idaho.gov).
- **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.