



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

February 5, 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 cuts budget in tough year**
- **Department introduces new LEP Program of Excellence Award**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **News from the State Board of Education**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

DEPARTMENT CUTS BUDGET IN TOUGH YEAR (GO TO TOP)

Idahoans are facing difficult challenges this year. As the economic outlook continues to worsen, everyone has had to make tough decisions. Education is no different. At the State Department of Education, Superintendent Luna has taken the lead by already reducing costs at the administrative level. Unlike Idaho's public schools, the State Department of Education was subject to the 4-percent budget holdbacks the Governor issued in December 2008. As a result, the Department has cut its budget by 4 percent in the current fiscal year and kept an additional 2 percent in reserve in case the Governor or Legislature orders further holdbacks in the current year. Superintendent Luna has told the Legislature the Department will carry over the 4-percent reduction to the Department's base into FY2010. Here is a brief overview of how the Department has dealt with the budget reductions.

Since taking office two years ago, Superintendent Luna strived to find efficiencies and cut costs at the State Department of Education. Every dollar saved in administration is one more dollar that could be spent in the classroom. These efforts helped the Department absorb the 4-percent holdbacks in the current year. For example, Superintendent Luna modernized the Department of Education offices in 2007 to consolidate office space. Under this project, the Department moved employees, who were spread on all four floors of a downtown office building, to a single floor, with the exception of IT employees. Now, the Department saves about \$44,000 a year in rental costs.

In addition, the Department overhauled its printing systems. In 2007, the Department had 52 printers. Employees were making 575,000 copies a month. Now, the Department has 19 printers, and employees have cut the number of copies in half. Through these efforts, the Department is saving more than \$100,000 a year.

In addition to these cost savings, Department employees also had to make further reductions to travel, printing and meeting costs since the holdbacks were issued. Department employees have utilized IdahoLive and other webinar services to hold virtual meetings, which allow them to continue providing the same level of service at a reduced cost.

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Superintendent Luna also had to make the choice of leaving vacant positions unfilled, furloughing employees for several weeks or reducing all staff's pay to meet the full 4-percent holdbacks. He chose to leave four full-time positions vacant.

Department employees have done their best this year to make reductions to their budgets while still providing the same level of customer service and technical assistance. Unfortunately, Idaho school districts will face the same tough decisions that the State Department of Education and other state agencies have had to make this past year. This will not be easy, but Superintendent Luna is convinced the budget he has submitted to the Legislature is a balanced, measured, strategic approach that will trim the schools budget while maintaining his priority: preserving student-teacher contact hours and programs that get directly into the classroom and have the most direct and immediate impact on student achievement.

Superintendent Luna and the staff of the State Department of Education remain committed to offering Idaho schools and districts the technical assistance they need to continue improving student achievement in these uncertain times.

For more information on the public schools budget, please visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on the "Public Schools Budget" link.

DEPARTMENT INTRODUCES NEW LEP PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE AWARD (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education has established two new award programs to recognize outstanding schools and educators who work directly with LEP students and their families.

The new Idaho LEP Program of Excellence award will recognize and honor outstanding LEP programs at the school or district level. Programs nominated for this award should be models of effective programs for LEP students and families and should demonstrate outstanding achievements in the social and academic experiences of LEP students. Two Program of Excellence awards will be given: One to an elementary LEP program and one to a secondary LEP program. Applications can be submitted as an overall district LEP program or as a specific school LEP program. Each awarded program will receive a plaque and \$2,500.

The new Idaho LEP Educator of the Year award program to recognize and honor outstanding educators who work with LEP students and families. Each awarded educator will receive a plaque and \$1,000. The Title III-LEP program will recognize educators in three categories:

- ESL/Bilingual or content/regular classroom teacher
- Paraprofessional
- School district administrator (building principal, federal programs director, superintendent)

All the 2009 honorees will be recognized at the Title I Conference on April 15-17, 2009 in Boise. All applications are due by 5 p.m. on **Friday, March 13, 2009**. Please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/lep/> to download an application form.



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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)

The following is a brief summary of changes to Administrative Rule the House and Senate Education Committee approved. If you have any questions about the changes to these rules, please contact the person listed below each rule.

IDAPA 08-0202-0801

This rule changes the name of the Education Media Generalist endorsement to Library Media Specialist. In addition, the rule changes the name of the reading endorsement to literacy to better reflect what is required of a teacher seeking the endorsement. The rule clarifies the requirement of a professional RN license instead of "nursing certificate."

Please contact Christina Linder, Director of Certification if you have questions, 208-332-6886.

IDAPA 08-0202-0802

This rule change addresses further defines "educationally related" credits for recertification for educators. The rule change also explicitly states that all coursework commencing prior to September 1, 2008 will be accepted for recertification, and specifies the availability of an appeal procedure.

Please contact Christina Linder, Director of Certification if you have questions, 208-332-6886.

IDAPA 08-0202-0803

The two documents that are being modified that are incorporated by reference in this rule are the Standards for Idaho School Buses and Operations (SISBO) and the Idaho Standards for the Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel.

1. The majority of the changes to the SISBO reflect revisions to the National Standards. The rule also changes the depreciation schedule to be based on mileage and type of use. This will help rural school districts.

Please contact Ray Merical, Director of Transportation if you have questions, 208-332-6855.

2. Idaho Standards for the Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel are used for postsecondary programs in the preparation of these individuals. The change to the standards for school counselors clarifies that the Idaho Comprehensive School Counseling Program Mode is based on the American School Counselor Association national standards. Changes to the school psychologist standards more accurately reflect the school psychologist's role in a school both with students and with other school staff. Changes were also made to better reflect current professional terminology for school psychologists.

Please contact Christina Linder, Director of Certification if you have questions, 208-332-6886.

IDAPA 08-0202-0805

Changes to the requirements for a school counselor endorsement increase the percentage of time for the required field experience to be in the K-12 setting, and that the field experience is in all grade levels (elementary, middle/junior high and high school). The proposed change to the school psychologist endorsement increases the minimum number of hours for the required internship from 300 hours to 1,200 hours. The increase in hours more closely aligns Idaho's standards to most other states and reflects current research in the area of preparation for school psychologists. Most of Idaho's programs that prepare school psychologists already require more than the current minimum of three hundred hours.

Please contact Christina Linder, Director of Certification if you have questions, 208-332-6886.



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IDAPA 08-0202-0806

These additional routes expedite the attainment of endorsements for teachers who are needed to teach in areas outside of their current endorsement. Under the alternative authorization provisions these additional routes would only be allowed for Idaho school districts who are requesting emergency endorsement/certification when a professional position cannot be filled with someone who has the correct endorsement/certification and is only valid for up to three years and is nonrenewable. These additional routes to endorsement under alternative authorization allow teachers to obtain additional endorsements through three options including traditional coursework through a college or university, National Board certification and through testing or assessment such as the Praxis II test. Those utilizing National Board certification and testing routes are required to complete a year of mentoring and supervision. Some pedagogy in content area best practices is required for those under the testing route.

Please contact Christina Linder, Director of Certification if you have questions, 208-332-6886.

IDAPA 08-0203-0802

This rule creates state math standards for algebra I, algebra II, geometry, math analysis, math analysis of personal finance, technical math, pre-calculus, AP calculus, and AP statistics. Standards were created by Idaho teachers and reviewed by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics.

Please contact Cindy Johnstone, Math Coordinator, if you have questions, 208-332-6932.

IDAPA 08-0203-0803

The essential element of a State Longitudinal Data System is the ability to assign a unique student identifier to students. A unique statewide student identifier connects student data laterally across key databases as well as longitudinally from year to year. This relationship gives the state the capacity to match individual students' test records over time, identify trends in student movement, and measure postsecondary statistics in order to provide accurate enrollment and demographic data that ultimately allows decision makers to better meet the needs of all Idaho students. The unique student identifier is addressed in four administrative rules. The rule include definitions, submission of required information to assign a unique student identifier, and requires that effective April 1, 2009, all students taking the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) have a unique student identifier.

Please contact Troy Wheeler, Chief Information Officer, if you have questions, 208-332-6982.

IDAPA 08-0202-0804

This rule change outlines procedures for native language certification through Tribal governments, State Department of Education Office of Indian Education and Office of Certification. Certification procedures are similar to standard teacher certification although approval must also be given by the Tribe(s) and SDE Indian Education Coordinator. Process includes fingerprinting and criminal history check.

Please contact Mary Jane Oatman-Wak Wak, SDE Coordinator for Indian Education, if you have questions, 208-332-6968.

IDAPA 08-0202-0807

The 2008 Legislature passed a bill requiring student teachers and individuals who have unsupervised contact with students to have a criminal history check (CHC). The bill also provides for a statewide list of substitute teachers. The rule includes definitions and addresses the process of obtaining a criminal history check for



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applicants for certification, school district employees, substitute teachers, student teachers and individuals who have unsupervised contact with students in a K-12 setting.

Please contact Christina Linder, Director of Certification if you have questions, 208-332-6886.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the Special Olympics Global Youth Rally at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 9 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the dedication of the Lincoln Monument at noon on Thursday, February 12 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak to the Idaho PTA at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 12 in Boise.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Charter Start 101 workshop** -- Are you interested in starting a public charter school but not sure where to begin? The State Department of Education is hosting a *Charter Start! 101* workshop in March to help 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. The deadline to register is **February 23, 2009**. To register, please visit <http://sdestatic.sde.idaho.gov/forms/charter/>.
- **Apply now for INL Mini Grants** -- The Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is pleased to announce two grant programs for 2009 in support of excellence and innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education. Teacher can apply for up to \$2,000, and schools can apply for up to \$10,000. Grant applications must be received by close of business on **March 13, 2009**. 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.
- **ISU internships and scholarships available** -- Idaho State University Physics is planning to grant summer internships and/or freshman scholarships to outstanding high school juniors and seniors interested in studying physics at ISU. 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. Applications must be received by **March 1, 2009**. For more information, please visit www.physics.isu.edu.
- **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 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.idahoe.org.



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- **Solar 4R Schools program** -- Applications for this year's awards for the Solar 4R Schools program are due **March 1, 2009**. 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. For more information, please visit <http://www.idahopower.com/greenpower/solar4Rschools/default>.
- **Abraham Lincoln and American Constitutionalism** -- The SDE is offering a day-long professional development for social studies teachers entitled "Abraham Lincoln and American Constitutionalism" on March 10, 2009 in Idaho Falls. Educators will gain balanced, in-depth content knowledge about Abraham Lincoln's ideas and decisions regarding slavery and the use of presidential power to preserve the Federal Union during the Civil War. Participate in interactive social studies lessons that utilize deliberation and performance assessment as model teaching tools. Registration online at http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/social_studies/ until February 20. If you have further question, please contact Peter Kavouras at (208) 332-6974 or pgkavouras@sde.idaho.gov.
- **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.
- **Council seeks proposals on work training for high school students** -- The Governor's Workforce Development Council is soliciting proposals to train 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 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 and click on the "What's News" link.

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

The Office of the Idaho State Board of Education, in conjunction with state wide financial aid directors invite all parents, students, educators and interested parties to attend the FAFSA Completion Event, February 21, 2009. The event is intended to help parents and students successfully complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Financial aid experts will be on hand in several locations throughout the state to help students and their parents, who may not fully realize the availability of these funds set aside to help them move on to post secondary education.

As part of the FAFSA Completion Event, public service announcements highlighting the need for increased rigor in high school coursework will be airing on many television stations throughout the state. If you would like to view the announcement or download it for your own internal school broadcast, you may do so by logging on to the Board's web site at www.boardofed.idaho.gov starting Monday, February 9, 2009.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

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- **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 or contact Jennifer Hobbs in the State Treasurer’s Office at (208) 332-2963 or email Jennifer.Hobbs@sto.idaho.gov.
- **Teacher Lesson Plans Available** - IDAHO magazine, with help from Boise State University, has developed lesson plans that are available for teachers to use in conjunction with the magazine. For teachers who would like IDAHO magazine available for classroom use, private sponsorship is available for your school. If you are teaching and wish to create approved lesson plans for an issue, please contact info@idahomagazine.com. For more information regarding available lesson plans for use in the classroom, please contact Kitty Fleischman at kfleisch@idahomagazine.com.
- **Spanish for the Working Professional** -- Northwest Nazarene University will offer a new course entitled Spanish for the Working Professional. This two-credit, weekly introductory course to Spanish is designed to develop functional language skills through conversation and practice for professionals who wish to be prepared for the ever-increasing demands of today’s workplace. It is the hope of this course to offer specialized Spanish courses in the healthcare, law enforcement and/or human resource fields as various Treasure Valley organizations have already expressed an interest and a need for practical Spanish courses. If you have any questions or comments beforehand, please contact Matt Fraley at (208) 891-7046 or mpfraley@nnu.edu.
- **Master's in Teacher Leadership** -- The University of Phoenix Idaho Campus is launching a Master’s degree in Teacher Leadership. The Master of Arts in Education program with a specialization in Teacher Leadership is intended for P-12 teachers who define themselves as learners, teachers, and leaders. The program provides advanced knowledge in collaboration, coaching and mentoring, decision making, planning, action research, and evaluation. Graduates will be able to serve their students, colleagues, and communities as ethical leaders committed to excellence. Cohorts start the first week of May 2009. If interested, contact Rachel Wilson at rachel.wilson@phoenix.edu or (208) 631-0289.
- **Historical Museum offers new exhibit** -- The Idaho State Historical Museum presents the "Let Children Be Children" exhibit about Lewis Wickes Hine's crusade against child labor. Hines was a sociologist who was hired by the National Child Labor Committee to document the harsh conditions in which children worked. The exhibit consists of 54 photographs. A complete list of photographs is available at http://www.geh.org/ar/letchild/letchil_sum00002.html. Lesson plans are available at <http://education.eastmanhouse.org/discover/kits/kit.php?id=8>. For more information on the exhibit, visit <http://www.idahohistory.net/museum.html>.
- **Regional Wellness Forums** -- The Idaho State Department of Education is hosting regional Public Wellness Forums across the state for schools to learn more about wellness policies. School wellness committee members as well as school administrators, teachers, foodservice employees, parents, and community members are encouraged to attend these forums. At the forums, Department staff will provide information on keeping wellness policies



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active in your local school district, evaluating wellness policies, and getting everyone involved in school wellness. For a full list of wellness forums, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/wellness_policy.htm or call (208) 332-6821.

- **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)

- **Feb. 9, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation's Christopher Columbus Awards program. The awards program is a national, community-based science and technology program for 6th-8th grade students. It challenges students to work in teams of three or four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. For more information, please visit www.christophercolumbusawards.com.
- **Feb. 12, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark entries for the Abraham Lincoln Essay Competition for students in grades 9-12. The writing topic is "Abraham Lincoln's Vision of Liberty." Download and print the competition guidelines at <http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/english/>. If you have questions, please contact Elizabeth Smith, English/Language Arts Coordinator, (208) 332-6903 or EMSmith@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Feb. 15, 2009** -- The deadline for high school seniors who plan to study engineering at Boise State to apply for up to \$200,000 in scholarships. The College of Engineering expects to award about 15 scholarships and encourages Idaho students to apply. Application forms and instructions are available on the College of Engineering Web site at <http://coen.boisestate.edu>. Eligible students must be freshmen at Boise State in fall 2009 majoring in materials science and engineering, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, civil engineering or computer science. For more information, visit coen.boisestate.edu or contact Leandra Aburusa at (208) 426-4432, laburusa@boisestate.edu or Amy Stauffer at (208) 426-1915, amystauffer@boisestate.edu.
- **Feb. 15, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the NEA C.A.R.E. PROGRAM (Culture-Abilities-Resilience-Effort), a research-based program that focuses on intervention strategies to improve student achievement within the local school. The program is sponsored by the Human and Civil Rights Committee of the Idaho Education Association.



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The IEA encourages teams of educators to participate in this training that is scheduled for March 6-8, 2009 in Boise. Participation is free for IEA members and college credit is available. For more information, contact Kathy Yamamoto at kyamamoto@idahoea.org.

- **Feb. 16, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark nominations for the 9th annual GIANTS (Governor's Industry Award for Notable Teaching in Science) Award, which recognizes teachers who integrate real life applications of science and technology in their classrooms. Visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/giants.htm to learn more or contact Scott Smith, the Department's Science Coordinator, at (208) 332-6952 or SSmith@sde.idaho.gov.
- **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 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 for applications.
- **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>. The SDE will be holding Unique Student ID System WebEx sessions every week during February. When available, the session schedule will be posted on the web site and TechTalk. As of today, 49 districts have used the system to create Unique Student IDs, and there are 124,429 students with Unique IDs assigned in the system. If you have questions, please contact Rene Hughes at 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/ for more information.