



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 15, 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:

- **Superintendent Luna asks for input on budget**
- **Peanut butter recall does not affect USDA commodity items**
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SUPERINTENDENT LUNA ASKS FOR INPUT ON BUDGET (GO TO TOP)

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna is encouraging all educational stakeholders -- parents, teachers, school board members, school administrators, students, legislators and other taxpayers -- to offer their ideas and suggestions for the FY2010 Public Schools Budget.

On Monday, Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter unveiled his recommendation for the FY2010 budget. In his recommendation, the Governor proposed reducing the \$1.42 billion Public Schools Budget by \$80 million, which is equivalent to a 5.6 percent base reduction. The Governor then proposed adding approximately \$21 million back into the Public Schools Budget to cover the cost of student population growth. After adding this funding for growth, the net reduction is equivalent to about 4.2 percent. The Governor recommended funding growth to ensure that the impact of the reductions would be spread equitably among school districts and not disproportionately levied against those that are growing.

The Governor's budget recommendations provides a basis for Superintendent Luna to work closely with educational stakeholders and legislators in crafting a revised FY2010 Public Schools Budget recommendation that takes into account the economic situation Idaho now faces. Superintendent Luna will present his recommendation for the FY2010 Public Schools Budget to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee on January 29, 2009. Until then, he is meeting with the leaders of major educational stakeholder groups to gather their input on the budget. He would like to hear from you, too.

To offer your input on the Public Schools Budget, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/schoolsbudget/> and submit your comments.



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PEANUT BUTTER RECALL DOES NOT AFFECT USDA COMMODITY ITEMS (GO TO TOP)

King Nut peanut butter and some Parnell's Pride peanut butter products have been recalled due to the risk of Salmonella. **No peanut butter products from this manufacturer have been distributed through USDA commodity programs that are administered out of the Idaho State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs.** However, please note that these products could have been purchased commercially by some food service venues. For more detailed information, please visit http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/kingnut01_09.html?userId=6764082 to read the USDA press release.

Peanut Corporation of America has released the production codes and pack sizes for the peanut butter recalled due to the risk of Salmonella. This peanut butter could have been purchased commercially by some food service venues. Please visit http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/peanutcorp01_09.html for additional information from the USDA.

Some companies are taking precautionary measures until additional information has been collected. If you have questions regarding product safety, please contact your food distributor ASAP to see if any purchased products are affected. **Again, USDA commodity items administered out of the State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs is not affected by this recall.** If you have any questions, please feel free to call Ed Herrera or Dennis McNees at (208) 332-6820 or e-mail them at Eherrera@sde.idaho.gov or DWMcnees@sde.idaho.gov.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)

- **Governor proposes changes at State Board and State Department** -- In his State of the State Address on Monday, Governor Otter announced a plan to realign the State Board of Education's role in K-12 education. Under the Governor's proposal, assessment activities, including the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Idaho English Language Assessment (IELA), will be transferred to the State Department of Education along with the GEAR UP program. The State Board will retain its role as the accountability arm for public education, including the determination of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Superintendent Luna met regularly with the Governor's staff and members of the State Board of Education to develop this plan. Superintendent Luna supports the Governor's recommendation and hopes the Legislature will approve these changes.
- Superintendent Luna will present his recommendation for the FY2010 Public Schools Budget at 8 a.m. on January 29, 2009. To listen to the presentation live, please visit <http://www.idahoptv.org/leglive/>.
- Want to submit your ideas for the FY2010 Public Schools Budget? Visit www.sde.idaho.gov and click on the "Public Schools Budget" link to learn how you can offer your ideas and suggestions.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- The State Department of Education offices will be closed on Monday, January 19 in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Limited staff will be in the office Monday since the Legislature is still in session.



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- Superintendent Luna will attend the Professional-Technical Education luncheon at noon on Tuesday, January 20 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Eastern Idaho Education Forum at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, January 20 in Idaho Falls.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Deadline for Unique Student IDs** -- The State Department of Education would like to remind local school districts that the deadline for creating Unique Student IDs for enrolled students is **April 1, 2009**. After this date, the Unique Student IDs need to be kept up to date for ISAT tests and other reporting purposes. Information about the Unique Student ID System will be presented in IETA Conference breakout sessions on January 27 and 28. We encourage districts and charter schools that have not yet created Unique Student IDs to attend one of these sessions. As of January 14, 39 school districts and charter schools have created IDs using the Unique Student ID System. If you have any questions, please contact Rene Hughes at rhughes@sde.idaho.gov.
- **C.A.R.E. Training for Idaho Educators** -- The Human and Civil Rights Committee of the Idaho Education Association is offering training to help address the student achievement gap. The NEA C.A.R.E. PROGRAM (Culture-Abilities-Resilience-Effort) is a research-based program that focuses on intervention strategies to improve student achievement within the local school. The IEA encourages teams of educators to participate in this training that is scheduled for March 6-8, 2009 in Boise, Idaho. Participation is free for IEA members and college credit is available. The registration deadline is **February 15, 2009**. For more information, contact Kathy Yamamoto at kyamamoto@idahoea.org.
- **Idaho History Teacher of the Year Award** -- The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History and Idaho Council for History Education have announced the 6th sixth annual *Preserve America* Idaho History Teacher of the Year Award. The award recognizes outstanding American history teachers from elementary school through high school and the crucial importance of American history education. The Idaho Council for History Education honors each state winner with an award of \$1,000 and presents his/her school with an archive of primary historical materials for use in the school library or resource center. For 2009, all elementary (K-6) teachers who have responsibility for teaching American history are eligible for nomination. Nomination packages must be postmarked by **April 10, 2009**. Please visit <http://www.sde.state.id.us/SocialStudies/default.asp> for more information regarding nomination criteria, eligibility, and submission procedures.
- **Register now for Hispanic education conference** -- *Closing the Achievement Gap: Emerging Hispanic Students and Parents* conference will be held February 10-11, 2009 at the Center for Arts Education and Arts, 616 Dearborn Street in Caldwell. The conference will focus on academic transitions, cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity and parental involvement. The deadline to register is **January 30, 2009**. For more information and to register, please visit http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/events_07_02.asp or contact Juan Saldana at (208) 334-3776 or juan.saldana@icha.idaho.gov.
- **Two Idaho students selected for U.S. Senate Youth Program** -- Senators Michael Crapo and Jim Risch today announced the names of the two Idaho students who have been selected as delegates to the 47th Annual United



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States Senate Youth Program (USSYP) that will be held March 7 – 14, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Kendall Kiser of Rexburg and Breeze Potter of Fairfield were chosen from hundreds of applicants to be part of the group of 104 student delegates who will attend the program's 47th Annual Washington Week. Congratulations to Kendall and Breeze! Delegates are nominated by their teachers and principals and ultimately chosen by State Superintendent Tom Luna.

- **National Green Week** -- The Green Education Foundation is sponsoring National Green Week this year, a first-of-its-kind environmental event that will educate children on the importance of sustainability and what they can do to make a difference. Your school can sign up for National Green Week at <http://nationalgreenweek.com>. Participation is free and will provide your school with environmental curriculum for green assignments, activities and projects that can be seamlessly integrated into science, math, language arts, social studies, and creative arts curricula.
- **ABCTE events in Idaho** -- The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence (ABCTE) is hosting two in-person teacher recruitment events and two online information sessions for professionals interested in changing careers and becoming teachers in Idaho. At the sessions, attendees can meet ABCTE representatives to discuss how they can earn their teacher certification. Here is the schedule for in-person sessions in Nampa and Boise:
 - **Nampa:** Sessions begin at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa.
 - **Boise:** Sessions begin at 10 a.m., 11 a.m. noon and 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at the Red Lion Hotel Boise Downtowner.Online information sessions will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, January 23, 2009 and at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 26, 2009. To register for an online session or learn more about ABCTE, please visit www.abcte.org or call 877-669-2228.
- **NWPE Teacher Grants and Scholarships** -- Northwest Professional Educators provides awards for continuing education scholarships and classroom support for materials, technology, projects, etc., of up to \$500 per award. 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. The deadline to apply is **March 31, 2009**. To apply for any of these awards, visit www.nwpe.org for applications.
- **Reminder about Recertification** -- Teachers who renew their teaching certifications should use the new B1-R form on the State Department of Education's web site. Teachers who are audited will not receive their certificates until the Department gets the verification of the credits. To learn more or to download the B1-R form, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_certification/ and click on "Renewing an Idaho Certificate/Credential" link. If you have questions, please contact Clarice Lansbery in the Teacher Certification office at (208) 332-6882 or CLansbery@sde.idaho.gov.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Register now for Dropout Summit** -- *Keeping the Promise: Idaho's Summit on Dropout Prevention* will be held January 30, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. The purpose of the summit is to initiate and strengthen Idaho's efforts to support students at risk of dropping out of school, broaden current strategies in dropout prevention

Office Location
650 West State Street

Telephone
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired
1-800-377-3529

Fax
208-334-2228



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and address issues that drive students to leave school. The cost is \$15 per person, with no charge for youth and scholarships available for adults. To view the entire agenda or to register, please visit <http://www.serveidaho.org/training/index.html>.

- **Guidance on requests for emergency assistance** -- If a school district is interested in asking the state for emergency assistance, they must go through a county emergency coordinator, who serves as the liaison for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. The coordinators determine whether a governmental entity has exhausted their own resources in coping with the emergency and report its findings to the BHS who then calls the Governor, if needed. Please visit <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Contact.aspx> and click on the "County Emergency Coordinators" link or call (208) 422-3040 to find out how you can contact the coordinator in your county.
- **News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education's next Education News Parents Can Use broadcast is scheduled for January 20, 2009 at 8 a.m. ET. The broadcast will take a look back at some of the most engaging topics explored on shows from the recent past, including such topics as early childhood education, highly qualified teachers, supporting English language learners, and the value of service learning. The broadcast will also feature video success stories from innovative schools and school districts to illustrate the topical discussions. For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>. Idaho Public Television rebroadcasts this program statewide each month on the following morning at 3 a.m. MT for librarians, parents and teachers to record.
- **Special Olympics Global Youth Rally** -- The Special Olympics is holding a Global Youth Rally from 10 a.m. to noon MST on Monday, February 9, 2009 at Boise State University for all Idaho youth in grades 5-12 and college and university students. The goals of the event are to generate awareness, present important issues and call young people to action. To register your school to attend the rally or to participate in a virtual webcast, please visit http://www.active.com/framed/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1665201.
- **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 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.
- **Bilingual Education conference** -- The Idaho Association for Bilingual Education (IABE) is hosting its annual conference on January 29-30, 2009 at the Holiday Inn on Vista Avenue in Boise. The theme of this year's conference is *Closing the Achievement Gap: Everyone's Responsibility*. Workshops will focus on language acquisition, academic content areas and English language learners, multicultural education, Migrant education and more. Registration is \$100 per attendee, including dinner on Thursday and lunch on Friday. For more information, please check out the IABE website at <http://www.idahoassocforbilingualed.org/>.
- **Building Blocks for Literacy course** -- The Lee Pesky Learning Center is hosting the Building Blocks for Literacy program in Idaho, a free professional development program for early care and education providers. The program will help providers to foster important, fundamental literacy skills. Based on recommendations from the National



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Research Council, the program uses games and other activities to make learning fun. This two-day class will be held on the following dates from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Cambria Suits, 2970 West Elder Street, in Boise:

- Saturdays, January 31 and February 21
- Saturdays, March 14 and April 4

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.lplearningcenter.org/> and click on "Child Care Provider Classes."

- **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.
- **School Improvement Webinars** -- Credit is now available from Boise State University for participation in the School Improvement Webinar series. Those applying for credit will be expected to spend at least two hours after each webinar working on implementing and completing an assignment worksheet. One credit is offered for every five webinars attended. To receive more information or an application for credit, e-mail your name and contact information to katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu. Also, please note that the date of the January School Improvement Webinar has been changed to **January 28** at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. MST. Please contact Lisa Kinnaman or Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 with any questions regarding School Improvement Webinars.
- **Winter EduFest** -- Winter EduFest, the conference on gifted and talented education, will be held February 26-28, 2009 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene. The conference is titled "Keys to Open Potential and Passion." For more information, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/announcements.htm.
- **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)

- **Jan. 16, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Coordinator School Health Grants, sponsored by the State Department of Education and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. The Department is seeking seven schools or districts, one from each public health region, to pilot the coordinated school health (CSH) model and create systematic change to promote healthy schools throughout the year. To apply, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/csh/> and download an application. Mail completed applications to: Pat Stewart, CSH Director, Idaho State Department of Education, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0027. If you have questions



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regarding this funding opportunity, please contact Pat Stewart, Coordinated School Health Director, at (208) 332-6929 or PLStewart@sde.idaho.gov.

- **Jan. 16, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) service-learning class for, which begins January 23, 2009 and goes through May 11, 2009. This is a pilot class, and scholarships may be available. At the end of this class, you will have prepared a valuable portfolio of your service-learning experience to show to prospective colleges and assist in receiving college scholarships. For more information, please contact Jeff Simmons, IDLA, at (208) 342-0207 or Cheryl Kary, Learn and Serve Coordinator at the State Department of Education, at (208) 332-6913 or CMKary@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 23, 2009** -- The deadline for students to enter the Reconnecting the Circle's National High School Essay Contest. This year's essay question asks, "Why is it important to understand patriotism in Indian Country?" and prompts students to research Native American patriots, as well as explore their own American communities. All high-school aged students (grades 9-12) from tribal, BIE, public, private, and parochial schools from all 50 states are invited to participate. To learn more, visit <http://www.reconnectingthecircle.com>.
- **Jan. 23, 2009** -- The deadline to appeal information on the AYP Graduation Rate Appeal web site. Visit <https://seciis.sde.state.id.us/gradrate/default.asp> and use the same password as the other AYP web site, the Quarterly Cash Balance Report, the CIP tool and the IDCI web sites. If you have questions, please e-mail grates@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Jan. 23, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the 2009 National Youth Science Camp. Download an application online at www.nysc.org/2009. The NYSC is hosted and operated by the National Youth Science Foundation. Two graduating high school students will be selected to represent Idaho at the all-expenses-paid honors program, which will be held from July 1-25, 2009. Mail or ship your completed application directly to Scott Smith, Science Coordinator at the State Department of Education. Do not send your application material directly to the National Youth Science Foundation. For questions about the application process, please contact Scott Smith, Science Coordinator, at (208) 332-6952 or SSmith@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** -- The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit an application for 21st Century Community Learning Centers grants. Grants must be submitted to Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator, by 4 p.m. (MST). If you have questions, please call (208) 332-6960. For more information visit www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cclc/grants.htm.
- **Feb. 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Frances Crawford Marvin American Indian Scholarship. A candidate for this scholarship must be enrolled full-time at a two-year or four-year college/university and must be Native



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American. Proof of American Indian blood is required by letter or proof papers. Students must demonstrate financial need, academic achievement, and have a 3.0 GPA or higher.

- **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 high school students (grades 9-12). The objectives of the competition are to encourage today's youth to evaluate Abraham Lincoln's contributions to American history, foster an awareness of the role that he played as president of the United States, and to make connections to similar events in today's world. 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. 16, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark a nomination for the 9th annual GIANTS (Governor's Industry Award for Notable Teaching in Science) Award. The award 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 about the nomination process for elementary and secondary teachers. For more information, 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 <https://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.