



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**January 29, 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 unveils budget ideas for public schools**
- **Free program offers financial literacy education**
- **Summer Food Program seeking sponsors**
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### **SUPERINTENDENT LUNA UNVEILS BUDGET IDEAS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna today presented his ideas for ways in which the Legislature can reduce the FY2010 Public Schools Budget without negatively impacting student achievement in the coming year.

"Let me be clear: I do not want to cut education funding. Unfortunately, with the economic outlook getting worse every day, public education can no longer sit this one out," Superintendent Luna said. "With input from educational stakeholders from across the state, I crafted a thoughtful, measured and strategic budget that will move student achievement forward in the coming year despite a reduction in the amount of money we will spend."

Superintendent Luna proposed reducing the Public Schools Budget by \$62 million and transferring \$17 million from the Public Education Stabilization Fund, which adds up to a total of \$79 million.

Superintendent Luna worked closely with key educational stakeholders, including legislators and representatives of the Idaho Education Association, the Idaho Association of School Administrators, the Idaho School Boards Association and the Idaho PTA, before crafting the budget. Throughout this process, he emphasized his priority to preserve student-teacher contact hours and the programs that direct more money into the classroom and have the greatest impact on student achievement.

"Education happens in the classroom, between a teacher and student. Even in a tight budget year, we cannot strip the classroom of the tools and resources Idaho teachers need to do their jobs every day," Superintendent Luna said. "We all must remember that kids only get one chance at an education. If a student is struggling in math or reading today, they cannot wait until next year to get assistance. They need help now."



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A copy of Superintendent Luna's full remarks to JFAC is posted online. Visit [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov) and click on the "Public Schools Budget" link.

The following is a list of Superintendent Luna's ideas for the FY2010 Public Schools Budget:

<u>Recommendation</u>	<u>Cost Savings</u>
Reduce the discretionary funds the state appropriates to school districts by the amount the state distributes for maintenance and remove the requirements that the maintenance funds be spent on maintenance projects	\$20,825,000
Eliminate state reimbursement for field trips, repair trips, test-driving, and bus driver training	\$2,500,000
Do not allow high-density districts access to the cost-per-mile measure, with regards to the pupil transportation cap	\$1,700,000
Reduce the administrative staff allowance from 0.075 to 0.0715 per midterm support unit	\$3,924,000
Eliminate Early Retirement Incentive Program for teachers	\$4,000,000
Freeze the experience movement on the salary grid for one year, which will affect about 23% of teachers	\$6,130,000
Reduce base salaries for all school personnel by the equivalent of three contract days and specify that the day be reduced at the local level by either eliminating in-service days or combining half-days into full days	\$15,152,900
Reduce discretionary funds by the amount school districts are required to match for textbooks, and then relieve the districts of the state requirement to provide such matching funds	\$3,317,000
Reduce state funding for textbooks by 40%	\$3,800,000
Reduce funding for classroom supplies funding from \$350 to \$300 per classroom teacher per year	\$781,000

These ideas total a \$62 million in reduction the Public Schools Budget. In addition, \$17 million will be transferred from the Public Education Stabilization Fund for a total of \$79 million.



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### **FREE PROGRAM OFFERS FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION (GO TO TOP)**

The Office of State Treasurer Ron Crane is proud to offer 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. As seniors take their first steps onto college campuses this fall, credit card companies will be ready and eager to sign them up. Credit cards are not “free money” and a few early credit card mistakes can follow you for years. Given the difficult economic times, this next generation needs to be armed with as many financial tools as possible. The Treasurer’s Office would like the opportunity to present this program to high school seniors all around Idaho.

The “ABC’s of Credit Card Finance” is an approximately one hour presentation 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.

Visit [www.sto.idaho.gov/Programs/CreditCardFinance.aspx](http://www.sto.idaho.gov/Programs/CreditCardFinance.aspx) to learn more. To inquire about having this program presented to graduating seniors, interested teachers and principals should 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).

### **SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM SEEKING SPONSORS (GO TO TOP)**

The Idaho State Department of Education is seeking sponsors for this year’s program that provides free meals to children from economically disadvantaged families during school summer vacations. Now more than ever, this program is needed to fill the gap for families who may not be able to afford to give their children nutritious meals during the summer months when school is not in session.

The Simplified Summer Food Program allows sponsors to receive full reimbursement based on the number of meals served and apply the funds to both operating and administrative costs, thus streamlining the claims process. The State Department of Education contracts with organizations, such as non-profit organizations, local governments and schools, to feed low-income children during the summer months. Nationally, more than 26 million children eat school lunch daily when school is in session, and about half of them receive their meals free or at a reduced price because they are from families with low household incomes. The summer program offers them nutritious food when school is not in session. Last year, Idaho’s 87 summer food sponsors served approximately 1.6 million meals at 279 sites.

For the 2009 program year, sponsors may be: Public or private nonprofit schools; public or private nonprofit residential camps; local, municipal, county, tribal, or state governments; public or private nonprofit colleges or universities that participate in the National Youth Sports Program; Upward Bound programs; libraries; private nonprofit organizations. The 2009 training registration information is available online at <http://www.databasesdoneright.com/nutrition/>. New sponsors are required to attend training and complete a hard copy application. Continuing sponsors for the 2009 summer program are invited to choose a training session in March or April at a location near to them. Experienced sponsors will be allowed to complete their training using Idaho Live on-line training this year.

For additional information about the Simplified Summer Food Program, contact Lynda Westphal at (208) 332-6821 or [LJWestphal@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:LJWestphal@sde.idaho.gov).



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### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE (GO TO TOP)

- **Superintendent Luna presented at JFAC** -- Please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov) and click on the "Public Schools Budget" link to read Superintendent Luna's remarks to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee or to download Superintendent Luna's list of ideas for the FY2010 Public Schools Budget.

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

- Superintendent Luna has no public appearances scheduled for the week of February 2.

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

- **Engineering scholarships available** -- Up to \$200,000 in scholarships are available for high school seniors interested in studying engineering at Boise State University, thanks to a National Science Foundation (NSF) scholarship program. The deadline for applications is **February 15, 2009**. 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](http://coen.boisestate.edu) or contact Leandra Aburusa at (208) 426-4432, [laburusa@boisestate.edu](mailto:laburusa@boisestate.edu) or Amy Stauffer at (208) 426-1915, [amystauffer@boisestate.edu](mailto:amystauffer@boisestate.edu).
- **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](mailto:info@idahomagazine.com). For more information regarding available lesson plans for use in the classroom, please contact Kitty Fleischman at [kfleisch@idahomagazine.com](mailto:kfleisch@idahomagazine.com).
- **Idaho School Counseling Week** -- Governor Otter has designated the week of February 2-9, 2009 as Idaho School Counseling Week in step with the national celebration during this same time period. This week is the time to recognize the invaluable programs and services these professionals provide. Schools and communities are encouraged to take this opportunity to express their appreciation for all that these professional school counselors play in helping our children and youth reach their potential. Working with many partners, school counselors typically address academic/professional-technical, career development, personal-emotional, social-relational, behavioral, health and nutritional and recreational issues that surface in the course of their interaction with students. To learn more about this week celebration, please visit <http://www.schoolcounselor.org/content.asp?contentid=271>.
- **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-



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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>.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Department launches Rural Education site** -- As a result of the hard work of the Rural Education Initiative Task Force, the State Department of Education unveiled this week a new web site dedicated to helping Idaho's rural schools and districts with the unique challenges they face. The new page is online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/ruraleducation/>. The Rural Education web site includes data on the Rural Education Task Force, a study on four-day school weeks in Idaho, federal programs related to rural schools and other articles and resources about rural education.
- **Governor to launch "Be Outside"** -- The Idaho Children and Nature Network is launching "Be Outside," an awareness campaign to help parents, teachers, and other youth leaders bring Idaho's kids back outside. On January 30, 2009, Governor and Mrs. Otter have been invited to launch the statewide "Be Outside" campaign along with Barbara Morgan and Dr. Bob Kustra, President of Boise State University. This launch will take place at Bald Eagle Days, an outdoor education event in Boise. Wherever you teach, you can participate by taking your class outside on that day for a lesson, experiment or just to enjoy being outside. On March 4, 2009, Timberline High School TREE (Teens Restoring Earth's Environment) club launches its first Outside Day providing outdoor education opportunities for elementary students. For information on both events, ideas for things to do with students outdoors, and future events throughout the state, check out the "Be Outside" website at [www.beoutsideidaho.org](http://www.beoutsideidaho.org).
- **Deadline for Unique Student IDs** -- The deadline for creating Unique Student IDs using the statewide Unique Student ID System 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. For more information about the Unique Student ID creation



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process, refer to the Unique Student ID web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/usid/index.htm>. We 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](mailto:rhughes@sde.idaho.gov).

- **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.
- **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/](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](mailto:CLansbery@sde.idaho.gov).
- **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](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](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](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.
- **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](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/gifted_talented/announcements.htm).



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- **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)

- **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/ccclc/grants.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/ccclc/grants.htm).
- **Jan. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the *Closing the Achievement Gap: Emerging Hispanic Students and Parents* conference, which 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. For more information and to register, please visit [http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/events\\_07\\_02.asp](http://www2.state.id.us/icha/menus/events_07_02.asp).
- **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 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](http://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](mailto:EMSmith@sde.idaho.gov).
- **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. 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](mailto:kyamamoto@idahoea.org).



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- **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](http://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](mailto: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.
- **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.
- **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.