



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 8, 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:

- **Idaho Legislature convenes January 12**
- **Registration now open for 2009 Dropout Summit**
- **Guidance for requests on emergency assistance**
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IDAHO LEGISLATURE CONVENES JANUARY 12 (GO TO TOP)

The Idaho Legislature will begin its 2009 session on Monday, January 12, 2009. Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter will give the annual State of the State and State of the Budget addresses at 3 p.m. MST. You can listen to the State of the State live from the Idaho Public Television web site at <http://www.idahoptv.com/leglive/>. Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna will attend the State of the State address on Monday and release a statement following the address to update Idaho educators.

After the legislative session begins, the "Legislative Update" portion of the Weekly E-Newsletter will return to keep you updated on education-related issues throughout the session.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR 2009 DROPOUT SUMMIT (GO TO TOP)

Keeping the Promise: Idaho's Summit on Dropout Prevention will be held January 30, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. Each year, hundreds of Idaho students drop out of school, and the results are devastating to those youth and the community. 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 and address issues that drive students to leave school.

Workshop sessions will provide information on mentoring, Latino dropouts in rural America, innovations around dropout prevention, service learning, apprenticeships and internships, and resources available for at-risk kids. There will also be workshop sessions for parents to learn more about safety issues and communicating with schools and teachers. Young people will be present to share their perspective of the dropout problem.



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To view the entire agenda or to register, please visit <http://www.serveidaho.org/training/index.html>.

The cost is \$15 per person, with no charge for youth and scholarships available for adults. To apply for a scholarship to attend the event for free, please contact Kelley Staskey at (208) 658-2062 or kstaskey@idoc.idaho.gov. Spanish translation is available. Gas cards are available for those living more than 50 miles away from Nampa. If you are interested, please e-mail pio@cityofnampa.us.

The Idaho State Department of Education is co-sponsoring the summit along with America's Promise Alliance, the City of Nampa, KTVB News Group, Idaho Press-Tribune, KWEI 99.5 FM, Serve Idaho and State Farm Insurance.

GUIDANCE ON REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE (GO TO TOP)

With heavy snowfall in North Idaho, several school districts have asked the Idaho State Department of Education for guidance on how public schools can request emergency assistance from the state. All requests for emergency assistance -- whether from cities, counties or schools -- must go through a county emergency coordinator, who serves as the liaison for the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security. These coordinators are available 24/7/365 and will evaluate the situation. 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.

Contact information for the emergency coordinator in your county is available on the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security's web site. Please visit <http://www.bhs.idaho.gov/Pages/Contact.aspx> and click on the "County Emergency Coordinators" link or call (208) 422-3040.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will give opening remarks at the Idaho Association of Secondary School Principals and Association of Special Education Administrators Conference at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, January 12 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the State of the State address at 3 p.m. on Monday, January 12 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the College of Western Idaho at noon on Tuesday, January 13 in Nampa.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **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/>.



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- **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 rally will bring together an estimated 3,000 youth with and without intellectual disabilities for an inspiring and motivational event that will provide a massive teachable moment to thousands of students around the world. Celebrity supporters will host a two-hour interactive show that will combine exciting ways of addressing key issues of tolerance and acceptance. 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.
- **Graduation Rate appeal window now open** -- The AYP Graduation Rate Appeal web site will be open from January 12 to January 23 for viewing and appealing the dropout and graduation data used to calculate the AYP Graduation Rate, the third indicator for high schools. 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.
- **Federal grant opportunities** -- Looking for a grant for 2009? Several new grant competitions are now underway. Here are a few examples:
 - **Partnerships in Character Education Program** (closes February 24): This program supports the design and implementation of character education programs that can be integrated into classroom instruction and that are consistent with state academic content standards. Such programs may be carried out in conjunction with other educational reform efforts and must take into consideration the views of the parents of the students to be taught under the program and the views of the students. Visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/charactered/>.
 - **Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program** (closes March 4): This unique initiative (supported by three agencies: Education, Health and Human Services, and Justice) supports the implementation and enhancement of comprehensive, community-wide plans that focus on multiple elements, including safe school environments, mental health treatment services, and early childhood learning programs. Successful applicants propose plans that address these issues with a well-coordinated strategy that links services in a systematic and effective manner. Visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpsafeschools/>.
 - **Teaching American History Grant Program** (closes March 9): This program supports projects that aim to raise student achievement by improving teachers' knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of traditional American history. Awards assist districts, in partnership with entities that have extensive content expertise (colleges and universities, history and humanities organizations, and libraries and museums) to develop, implement, document, evaluate, and disseminate innovative, cohesive models of professional development. Visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/teachinghistory/>.For more information on U.S. Department of Education grants, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/GrantApps/>.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **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

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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. All forums will start at 6:30 p.m. on the dates and locations listed below:

- January 27, 2009: Coeur d'Alene High School auditorium
- January 28, 2009: Lewiston High School auditorium, Lewiston
- February 5, 2009: American Falls Intermediate School Music Room, American Falls
- February 18, 2009: O'Leary Junior High, Twin Falls
- February 19, 2009: Blackfoot High Performing Arts Center, Blackfoot
- February 24, 2009: Hampton Inn, Meridian

For more information, 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 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 4For 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.
- **Grants to prevent underage drinking** -- The Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections announced \$140,000 in grants is available to support community-based programs to prevent and reduce underage drinking. Grant proposals

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are currently being accepted for the Law Enforcement (\$90,000), and the Community Coalition (\$50,000) Mini-Grant Programs. Application and eligibility guidelines and application forms can be downloaded from the IDJC website at www.idjc.idaho.gov or can be requested on diskette, email, or hardcopy by calling (208) 334-5100 ext. 413.

- **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.
- **Donations for Homeless Education Programs** -- In an effort to aid homeless education programs in a particularly difficult economy, the State Department of Education is beginning an ongoing project to distribute hotel toiletries collected by Department staff while traveling on business. If your school or district has a need, and you are interested in receiving these toiletries, please contact Camille Wells at CWells@sde.idaho.gov. Requests will be filled in the order they are received. If you have any other questions or concerns about homeless education in Idaho, please feel free to contact Karen Seay at the Department at (208) 332-6978 or KJSeay@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Free youth suicide prevention training** -- Idaho State University is sponsoring free youth suicide prevention trainings. The training session includes warning signs of mental illness in youth, risk and protective factors for suicide and practical information on how to talk to youth who are at risk. Seating is limited, so register early. For more information, contact Marsha Tracy at preventsuicide@isu.edu or (208) 373.1799. The trainings will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:
 - January 22, 2009 in Garden City
 - February 3, 2009 in Twin Falls
 - March 3, 2009 in Sandpoint
 - April 8, 2009 in Idaho Falls
- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.
- **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)

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- **Jan. 12, 2009** – The deadline to enroll in Northwest Nazarene University's 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games graduate course. The course, titled ED550 Education to Make a Difference, is designed so that educators will learn to teach a series of concise and engaging K-12 lessons about valuing diversity through involvement with the Special Olympics. To register, please visit <https://www.nnu.edu/cereg>. If you have questions, please e-mail Mary Gervase at marymgervase@yahoo.com.
- **Jan. 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. Visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm to learn more or to apply online.
- **Jan. 15, 2009** -- The deadline for current high school seniors to complete online scholarship applications. Applications are available at www.boardofed.idaho.gov/scholarships. The State of Idaho, through the Office of the State Board of Education, provides online applications for the following scholarships: Governor's Cup Scholarship Academic, Governor's Cup Scholarship Professional-Technical, Robert R. Lee Promise "A" Academic, Robert R. Lee Promise "A" Professional-Technical, Robert C. Byrd Scholarship, Tschudy Family Scholarship (Emmett High School graduates only).
- **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 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



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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 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 SSmmith@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 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.



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- **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.