



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**July 2, 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

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### **STATE BOARD K-12 PROGRAMS TRANSITION TO DEPARTMENT (GO TO TOP)**

K-12 programs formerly housed in the State Board of Education were moved to the Department of Education on July 1 with the start of the new fiscal year. The programs include all statewide, federally mandated assessments and GEAR UP, which helps low-income students go on to postsecondary education.

The transition is part of an effort to realign the State Board of Education's focus and operations. Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and members of the State Board of Education worked last year to streamline the Board's operations to focus more on policy than day-to-day operations. The Idaho Legislature approved the transition earlier this year.

"I welcome the opportunity to manage the statewide assessments as well as GEAR UP. These programs are essential to raising student achievement and meeting the needs of all students," Superintendent Luna said. "Idaho educators must have quality assessment tools to measure how students are performing and the areas in which they need additional assistance, and GEAR UP gives low-income students the opportunity to work toward the goal of pursuing postsecondary education."

Superintendent Luna created a new Division of Assessment within the Department to manage the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), Idaho English Language Assessment (IELA), National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP), and the Idaho Alternate Assessment. He also appointed Dr. Carissa Moffat Miller as Deputy Superintendent over the Division of Assessment.

GEAR UP, which stands for Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs, works directly with Idaho schools to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The program provides students with personalized learning plans, guidance, advanced learning opportunities and many other tools. GEAR UP Idaho is currently working with 5,400 students in 20 low-income schools across



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Idaho. It joins the Department's existing Division of School Support Services, led by Deputy Superintendent Nick Smith.

Here is a look at the new employees who are joining the State Department of Education for as part of the assessment and GEAR UP programs:

- **Dr. Carissa Moffat Miller, Deputy Superintendent of Assessment:** Dr. Miller worked at the State Board as Program Manager for Assessment and Accountability until 2005, where she worked extensively with the ISAT. After that, she worked as a research associate at Boise State University and earned her doctorate in Education from the University of Idaho. Not only does Miller have a strong background in statewide assessments, but she also brings extensive experience and expertise in large-scale data analysis. Miller will join the Department full time in August.
- **Scott Cook, ISAT Coordinator:** Before joining the Department, Cook served as a consultant with Questar Assessment. Prior to that, he spent more than 20 years involved in managing large-scale performance assessments. Cook worked with the Illinois Standards Achievement Test from 2006 to 2008. He has also worked with several state departments of education, including Texas, New Jersey and Illinois. He will join the Department in August.
- **Wendy St. Michell, IELA Coordinator:** St. Michell transitioned to the Department from the Office of the State Board of Education, where she has served as the IELA Coordinator in Idaho for the last five years. Prior to that, she worked for a large relief and development agency managing education, health and food programs in Eastern Europe and Latin America. St. Michell has extensive experience teaching English language learners in the United States and other countries. She received her master's degree in international education from The American University in Washington D.C.
- **Dr. Bert Stoneberg, NAEP Coordinator:** Dr. Stoneberg transitioned to the Department from the Office of the State Board of Education. He has served as the NAEP Coordinator in Idaho since 2002. Prior to that he served in Oregon for nearly 20 years as a district office administrator providing oversight for school improvement, curriculum, assessment, program evaluation, and federal programs. Dr. Stoneberg has an Idaho education credential with administrative endorsements for PreK-12 Principal and Superintendent, and 6-12 teaching endorsements for Mathematics, English, German and Psychology. He has completed a doctorate in secondary education at the University of Idaho, a graduate program in school administration at the University of Oregon, and a graduate program in large-scale educational assessment at the University of Maryland.
- **Carol Scholz, Alternate Assessment Coordinator:** Prior to joining the Department, Scholz worked as an elementary teacher at Idaho Arts Charter School in Nampa. After more than 24 years as an elementary and special education teacher she was named the 2008 Idaho Teacher of the Year for her many contributions to public education and her work to raise student achievement. Scholz has extensive experience working with students with severe disabilities, as well as the visually impaired and autistic. She is adept at alternative assessments and assistive technology for students with disabilities. Scholz has been awarded and administered many grants for her work in assistive technology including a district-wide Program Improvement Grant, served as a mentor teacher and was awarded the SandCase Excellence in Special Education Award for her work with assistive technology. Scholz has served as a district National Board Certification Coordinator and is Nationally Board Certified in Middle Childhood. Scholz also holds dual certification in; Multiple Subjects K-8, Special Education Visually Impaired as

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well as in Rehabilitation and Mobility. Scholz has a Masters in Special Education and is currently working on her Ph.D. in Education with a Specialization in Technology.

- **Decker Sanders, GEAR UP Coordinator:** Decker Sanders has served at the Office of the State Board of Education for the past two years as GEAR UP Project Director and the Interim Chief Academic Officer. Prior to that, he spent eight years at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare as a substance abuse program specialist and senior project manager. During his time at Health and Welfare, Sanders implemented Idaho's first statewide tobacco enforcement program, served as a technical consultant to the Idaho Exiting Standards Commission in the area of health sciences and directed agency teams in achieving compliance with federal court-ordered plans for children's mental health. He has been honored with the Peabody award and won notable awards for his work in social marketing. Sanders served in the U.S. Air Force for 20 years. He holds a master's in public administration and bachelor's degree in social psychology.
- **Amy Kernin-Laye, GEAR UP Specialist:** Kernin-Laye has worked on the GEAR UP Idaho program for nearly two years. She transitioned to the Department from the Office of the State Board of Education. Prior to working with the Idaho grant, Kernin-Laye worked with the GEAR UP partnership grant at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
- **Carina Davio, GEAR UP Specialist:** Davio has worked with the Office of the State Board of Education and the GEAR UP program since December 2006. Initially hired as the marketing coordinator, Davio was instrumental in the revision and reorganization of the original application to ensure the success of GEAR UP Idaho. Prior to working for the Board, Davio served as the marketing coordinator for Opera Idaho.

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

- The State Department of Education offices will be closed Friday, July 3 in observance of the 4th of July holiday.
- Superintendent Luna has no public meetings scheduled next week.

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

- **Grant Reimbursement Application webinar** -- If you were unable to participate in the webinar regarding the new Grant Reimbursement Application this week, it is archived online along with a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. To access the webinar, please visit <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/accounting/> and click under the "Grant Reimbursement Application" section. If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Phillips at (208) 332-6867 or [BCPhillips@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:BCPhillips@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Grants available for Basic Center Program** -- The Family and Youth Services Bureau is accepting applications for the Basic Center Program (BCP), which is authorized by the Runaway and Homeless Act to address runaway and homeless youth problems. BCPs provide an alternative for runaway and homeless youth who might otherwise end up with law enforcement or in the child welfare, mental health, or juvenile justice systems. Each BCP must provide runaway and homeless youth with a safe and appropriate shelter, individual, family, and group counseling



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as appropriate, and aftercare. The deadline to apply is **July 13, 2009**. For more information, please visit <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/HHS-2009-ACF-ACYF-CY-0023.html>.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **RTI Guidance Manual available** -- *Connecting the Pieces*, the new Response-to-Intervention (RTI) guidance manual created by the State Department of Education is now posted on the Department's web site. A copy will be sent to every school and district in Idaho over the next few weeks. If you would like to download the manual, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>. If you have any questions about RTI, please contact Nancy Thomas Price, RTI Coordinator, at (208) 332-6979 or [NThomasPrice@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:NThomasPrice@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Update on new Grant Reimbursement Application** -- The State Department of Education will transition from the current Cash Balance Report system to the new Grant Reimbursement Application on July 1. As part of this transition, the Department will require one final submission in the current Cash Balance Report (<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/bots/FederalPrograms/default.asp>) for the fourth quarter ending June 30. As we transition from an advance payment system to a reimbursement system, this report will be different from previous reports in several ways. The first section beginning with the "Cash on hand in 6/30/2008" and ending "Cash Balance on hand for this program at the end as of 6/30/2009" should be completed as before. If you have a negative cash balance or a balance of 0, you will not need to enter anything for anticipated expenditures and can submit your report. Negative cash balances will be reimbursed as normal. If your cash balance on hand is positive, you will need to enter your anticipated expenditures for July 2009. As in the past, any cash on hand that is anticipated to be used in July may be retained for use in that month. Any cash on hand exceeding the anticipated expenditures should be sent back to the Department as usual. If your anticipated expenditures are more than the current cash on hand, you may submit requests for reimbursement on further expenses once that cash on hand has been spent. **Please note:** In all cases, fourth quarter Cash Balance Reports must be submitted, and any funds that are retained by the district/school after June 30 must be spent before requests for reimbursements for further expenses can be submitted. If you have questions, contact Brandon Phillips at [BCPhillips@sde.Idaho.gov](mailto:BCPhillips@sde.Idaho.gov).
- **Free Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Services** - The Council on Developmental Disabilities is pleased to announce the availability of expert person-centered planning facilitators around Idaho. Thirteen people have just completed intensive training to become Person-Centered Planning (PCP) Specialists and will work with adults and transition-age youth (14-18) with developmental disabilities who live in Idaho communities. Person-centered planning is a valuable tool used to help individuals with developmental disabilities create a plan for support and services that is focused on their life goals and dreams. This service is free to individuals and their families. Contact information for PCP Specialists can be found at <http://www.idahocdh.org/dnn/personcenteredplanning>.
- **Register for Edufest** -- Edufest will be held July 26-July 31 at Boise State University. The conference, which focuses on advanced and gifted/talented education, is open to classroom teachers, gifted and talented coordinators, administrators, parents and counselors. Edufest Parent Day is Saturday, July 26. The Administrator, Counselor, Special Education and Gifted Specialist Institute will be held Monday, July 27. For more information or to register, please visit [www.edufest.org](http://www.edufest.org).



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- **Upcoming Transportation Workshops** – The State Department of Education, School Transportation Division will be holding the following trainings and workshops this summer. Pre-registration is required. Visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/transportation/> and select a workshop below the Summer Workshop Registration heading. If you have questions, please contact Angela Tracy at [atracy@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:atracy@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6851.
  - School Bus Technician Workshop: July 14-16, 2009 in Boise. Cost is \$125. Training topics include Ricon repair and maintenance, 2010 emissions, open recalls, IC field changes, IC warranty policy, annual and 60-day inspections, air brake repair and maintenance, On-Spot chain repair and maintenance, Blue Bird current products, Allison transmissions, Webasto heaters, basic bus bidding and reimbursement, Western Mountain Bus Sales electrical trouble shooting and field changes, and fiberglass repair.
  - Bus Driver Training Workshops: August 3 in Blackfoot, August 5 in Marsh Valley, August 7 in Burley, August 10 in Boise, August 12 in Coeur d'Alene, and August 14 in Moscow. Cost is \$40 for trainers and \$30 for bus drivers. Training topics include loading/unloading procedures and driver/student relationships.
  - Reimbursement Workshops: August 4 in Blackfoot, August 6 in Burley, August 11 in Coeur d'Alene, August 13 in Moscow, and August 18 in Boise. Training topics include transportation supervisor training, reimbursement formula changes, block grant, and new Reimbursement Claim form.
- **Register for JASON workshops** -- The State Department of Education is hosting JASON summer teacher workshops around the state. Each location will hold a one-day workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Graduate credit through Idaho State University is available. Through the JASON project, students are exposed to an endless supply of great explorers and real-time events, systematically and on-demand. JASON curriculum is aligned with the state and national standards. This summer, the curriculum is the *Operations - Monster Storms* with introduction to *Operation - Resilient Plant and Operation - Infinite Potential*. Register at [www.arconnections.org](http://www.arconnections.org). Here is a list of workshop dates and locations:
  - Monday, July 20: State Department of Education offices, Boise
  - Thursday, July 23: Shelley High School, Shelley
  - Friday, July 24: TBD, Twin Falls or Burley
  - Tuesday, July 28: Coeur d'Alene Charter Academy, Coeur d'Alene
- **Digital workshops for teachers of American Indian students** -- The Digital Teacher Workshops are produced by the U.S. Department of Education's Teacher-to-Teacher Initiative in collaboration with the Office of Indian Education. You can access the workshops online at <http://www.t2tweb.us/NativeAmerican/home.asp>. They are intended to be useful to teachers who are teaching in remote villages, large urban districts or suburban areas whether they are new to teaching or veteran teachers who are curious to find new perspectives and resources. If you have any ideas, questions or suggestions, please contact OIE at [Indianeducation@ed.gov](mailto:Indianeducation@ed.gov) or (202) 260-7485.
- **Attendance, enrollment and graduation reports due** -- The third period attendance and enrollment reports are due one week after your last regular day of school for this year. Graduation reports for high schools are also due at this time. If you have any questions or need help submitting reports, please contact Greg Berg at [GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Mathematics of Personal Finance Professional Development** -- Mathematics teachers wishing to use the new Mathematics of Personal Finance content standards can attend a free professional development opportunity in Boise



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on August 18, 2009. These math content standards can be used as the basis for a district developed math course that will satisfy the new high school graduation requirement in mathematics for ninth graders entering school in the fall of 2009. For more information and online registration, please visit <http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/math/> or contact Amanda Salazar at [adsalazar@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:adsalazar@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6974.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **July 6, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the Boise grant-writing clinic, hosted by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and National Center for Training, Support and Technical Assistance. The two-day clinic designed for both the novice and the experienced grant seeker. The clinic is limited to the first 25 participants. It will be start at 8:30 a.m. on July 20-21 in the JR Williams Building in downtown Boise. To register, please contact Rebecca Schliep at (208) 334-5937 or [schliep@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:schliep@dhw.idaho.gov).
- **July 8, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Sharing the Dream grants. This program supports elementary and middle school principals in their work to foster and encourage strong school-community relationships. Principals can vie for \$3,000 grants to initiate a project designed to actively engage their communities. For more on the program, please visit [www.naesp.org/resources/1/Pdfs/09SharingtheDreamApp.pdf](http://www.naesp.org/resources/1/Pdfs/09SharingtheDreamApp.pdf).
- **July 9, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the Pocatello grant-writing clinic, hosted by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and National Center for Training, Support and Technical Assistance. The two-day clinic designed for both the novice and the experienced grant seeker. The clinic is limited to the first 25 participants. It will be start at 8:30 a.m. on July 23-24 at Idaho State University. To register, please contact Rebecca Schliep at (208) 334-5937 or [schliep@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:schliep@dhw.idaho.gov).
- **July 13, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the Pocatello grant-writing clinic, hosted by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and National Center for Training, Support and Technical Assistance. The two-day clinic designed for both the novice and the experienced grant seeker. The clinic is limited to the first 25 participants. It will be start at 8:30 a.m. on July 27-28 in the Fiske Room at University of Idaho. To register, please contact Rebecca Schliep at (208) 334-5937 or [schliep@dhw.idaho.gov](mailto:schliep@dhw.idaho.gov).
- **August 10, 2009** -- The date the Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will meet to review Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or [CLackey@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLackey@sde.idaho.gov). You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education  
ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
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- **August 13, 2009** -- The date of the 2009 Annual Superintendents' Meeting. Mark your calendars! More details to come.



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- **October 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for awards up to \$500 for Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. All educators are eligible for the awards. Each teacher must submit a short application describing the continuing education opportunity or class project, an itemized budget, and the academic benefit for students. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org). All awards are competitive.
- **December 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. Teachers new to their district or grade level are eligible for the awards. Each teacher submits a short application describing their needs for setting up their classroom. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org). All awards are competitive.
- **September 30, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the American Association of School Administrators National Superintendent of the Year Program, which pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation's public schools. The maximum award is \$10,000. For more information, please visit <http://www.aasa.org/awards/content1.cfm?ItemNumber=890>.
- **November 20, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark an application for the 2009 Qwest Foundation for Education Grant, which is awarded to Idaho K-12 public school classroom educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech\\_services/grants\\_contracts.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm) to download the application form. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or [JTakata@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JTakata@sde.idaho.gov).