



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

July 9, 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 supports lowering supermajority requirement**
- **Idaho Summer Food Program earns national recognition**
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SUPERINTENDENT LUNA SUPPORTS LOWERING SUPERMAJORITY REQUIREMENT (GO TO TOP)

In May, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced his support for lowering the supermajority requirement for school bond elections to 60 percent, now that the Idaho Legislature has consolidated election dates. The following is a statement from Superintendent Luna explaining his position:

"I have been consistent since I served as a local school board member that reducing the supermajority to 60 percent for school bond elections is tied to election consolidation. Now that we have consolidated election dates, the state should move forward in lowering the supermajority to 60 percent. Election consolidation not only limits the opportunities for local school districts to run bonds, but it also means we will have a larger sample of the electorate and more informed voters heading the polls. Therefore, it makes sense to reduce the supermajority from two-thirds to 60 percent. This does not necessarily make it easier for bonds to pass. Sixty percent is still a high bar. But since we have consolidated the election dates, I believe it is time to put this issue on the ballot in 2010 and let Idaho voters decide."

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Superintendent Luna directly at TRLuna@sde.idaho.gov. You can also follow Superintendent Luna on Facebook (www.facebook.com/superintendentluna) or on Twitter (@tomluna).

IDAHO SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION (GO TO TOP)

The Food and Research Action Center ranked Idaho ninth in the nation for helping Idaho students access meals during the summer months.



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The Summer Food Program is a federally funded program that offers meals to low-income children during the summer months when school is not in session. In 2008, nearly 21,000 children in Idaho received meals through the Summer Food Program, according to the report. The data for the current 2009 Summer Food Program is not yet available.

To learn more about the Summer Food Program, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/summerFoods/>.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Idaho Youth Leadership Forum from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 16 in Boise.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Update on Spring IRI** -- The updated posting of the K-3 Spring IRI data is available for school administrators to review for accuracy on the "Data Collection" page of the State Department of Education web site. Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/data_collection.htm. The last export will be sent Monday, July 13. Districts can correct any errors in their AIMSWeb account before this next export.
- **Annual Superintendents' Meeting** -- The 2009 Annual Superintendents' Meeting will be held Thursday, August 13, 2009 at the Meridian School District offices in Meridian. More details and registration information coming soon.
- **Use IDCI Database** -- School and district officials are encouraged to visit the Idaho District Contact Information database and update all contact information for the upcoming school year. Please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/data_collection.htm and click on the "Idaho District Contact Information" link. Instructions for using IDCI are posted at the top of the web page.

REMINDERS (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.
- **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>.

- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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 or (208) 332-6851.



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- 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. 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
- **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 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 or (208) 332-6974.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **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.
- **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



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Cina Lackey, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. If you have questions, please contact Cina Lackey at (208) 332-6936 or CLackey@sde.idaho.gov. You can mail applications to:

State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Lackey
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.
- **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. 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. 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 to download the application form. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or JTakata@sde.idaho.gov.