



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**June 19, 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:**

- **State Board of Education approves Middle Level Credit System**
- **Governor's Cup scholarship recipients announced**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

### **STATE BOARD APPROVES MIDDLE LEVEL CREDIT SYSTEM (GO TO TOP)**

The State Board of Education unanimously approved Superintendent Luna's recommendation to implement a middle level credit system at its meeting on Thursday in Hailey.

The credit system is one of several recommendations from the Idaho Middle Level Task Force. Superintendent Luna and the State Board of Education created the Middle Level Task Force in 2007 to find ways Idaho could raise student achievement in the middle grades.

Under the proposed credit system, the state would set minimum requirements and give Idaho school districts the flexibility to implement a credit system that meets the needs of the local community. Here are the minimum state standards for the credit system:

- A school district shall require a student to attain a minimum of 80% of their credits in order to be promoted to the next grade level.
- Students will not be allowed to lose a full year of credit in one academic area (i.e. a student would not be able to fail a full year of math).
- Students not meeting credit requirements will be given an opportunity to recover credits or complete an alternate mechanism in order to be eligible for promotion to the next grade level.
- Attendance is a factor either in the credit system or the alternate mechanism or both.

The State Board's approval is the first step in implementing the credit system. The proposed change in Administrative Rule will be available for public comment in July and based on those comments, the proposal will return to the State Board of Education for approval. If approved, the new credit system would be implemented in Fall 2010.

To learn more about the proposed credit system or to read the Task Force's full list of recommendations, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/initiatives/ms\\_task\\_force.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/initiatives/ms_task_force.htm).



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In addition to the credit system, the State Board of Education also approved the following motions from the State Department of Education:

- **Online Teacher Endorsement:** The State Board approved the addition of an Online Teacher Endorsement to the Idaho Standards for the Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel.
- **Driver Education Manual:** The State Board approved the revised Idaho Operating Procedures for Public Driver Education Programs.
- **Idaho Alternate Assessment Achievement Standards, Science:** The State Board approved the Idaho Alternate Assessment - Science (IAA-Science) achievement standards. IAA-Science has been developed for use as an alternate to the ISAT-Science for students with significant cognitive disabilities who, due to the nature of their disability, cannot participate in the regular assessment, even with appropriate accommodations. The IAA-Science is given in grades 5, 7 and 10.
- **Restructuring Subcommittee:** The State Board approved the creation of a subcommittee to review and approve the plans of schools identified for Restructuring. When a school reaches School Improvement Year 5, the school district/LEA must develop a plan for restructuring that includes substantial changes. Until the school's plan is approved by the state or the school makes adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two years in a row, the sanctions (professional development, choice, supplemental education services) stay in effect.
- **Accreditation Summary Report:** The State Board approved the annual accreditation of Idaho schools report.
- **PSC Nominations:** The State Board approved two nominations to the Professional Standards Commission. Karen Pyron of Butte County Joint School District will serve as the elementary school principal representative. Christine Rood of University of Phoenix will serve as the private higher education representative.
- **Transportation Cap Waivers:** The State Board of Education approved transportation cap waivers for the following Idaho school districts: Garden Valley, Kellogg, Lapwai, Moscow, Orofino, Plummer-Worley and Wallace.

For more information on the State Board of Education meeting, please visit [www.boardofed.idaho.gov](http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov).

### GOVERNOR'S CUP SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED (GO TO TOP)

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter announced 19 recipients of this year's Governor's Cup Scholarships to Idaho colleges and universities. Recipients were chosen from among more than 700 applicants by the Idaho Governor's Cup Scholarship Fund Inc.'s 13-member board of directors. Selections were based on each applicant's commitment to public service, academic achievement and community involvement.

The number of scholarships awarded is based on the availability of funds. Record fund-raising during the past year resulted in the awarding of eight more scholarships than in 2008. The award is \$3,000 per year, renewable for up to four (4) years, or two to three (2-3) years for professional-technical programs, contingent upon the availability of funds. Here are this year's recipients, along with their high school and the school they plan to attend in the fall.

Scholarships for 4-year college/university:

- *Lucia Sanchez* – St. Maries HS, St. Maries, Idaho – Attending University of Idaho
- *Katelyn Mosman* – Nez Perce HS, Craigmont, Idaho – Attending University of Idaho
- *Courtney Johnson* – Highland HS, Pocatello, Idaho – Attending Boise State University

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- *Samantha Bopp* – Century HS, Pocatello, Idaho – Attending Idaho State University
- *Ellen Town* – Meridian Medical Arts Charter School, Meridian, Idaho – Attending College of Idaho
- *Blake Harris* – Hansen HS, Hansen, Idaho – Attending University of Idaho
- *Marli Manning* – Raft River HS, Malta, Idaho – Attending Brigham Young University – Idaho
- *Amber Trost* – Priest River Lamanna HS, Priest River, Idaho – Attending University of Idaho
- *Kylee Holdaway* – West Jefferson HS, Terreton, Idaho – Attending Boise State University
- *Stephanie Woodworth* – American Falls HS, American Falls, Idaho – Attending Idaho State University
- *Neil Wimer* – Borah HS, Boise, Idaho – Attending University of Idaho
- *Taylor Devereux* – Centennial HS, Boise, Idaho – Attending Boise State University
- *Thao Ha* – Mountain View HS, Meridian, Idaho – Attending College of Idaho
- *John Zieske* – Priest River Lamanna HS, Priest River, Idaho – University of Idaho
- *Gregory Barker* – Century HS, Pocatello, Idaho – Attending Idaho State University
- *Jeana Jeffries* – Payette HS, Payette, Idaho – Attending Idaho State University
- *Kelsea Wilkins* – Grangeville HS, Grangeville, Idaho – Attending University of Idaho

Scholarships for Professional Technical, 2-3 year program:

- *Jackson Reid* – Boise HS, Boise, Idaho – Attending College of Western Idaho
- *Victoria Chojnacky* – Jerome HS, Jerome, Idaho – Attending Boise State University

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

- Superintendent Luna will take a tour of Life's Kitchen at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, June 24 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Governor's Capitol for a Day on Thursday, June 25 in Franklin.

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

- **Webinar on new Grant Reimbursement Application** -- The State Department of Education is hosting a webinar on the Cash Balance Report system and how to use the new Grant Reimbursement Application. The webinar will be held from 11 a.m. to noon MT on Monday June 29. Business managers and others responsible for submitting these reports are strongly encouraged to take part. Please note: This only applies to educational entities that currently use the Cash Balance Report to request funds. The new application will go live July 1, 2009. To access this webinar, please visit [www.idahodigitallearning.org](http://www.idahodigitallearning.org), click on the "IdahoLive" tab, click on "Room Access" and then go to the Aspen Room. If you have any issues and/or questions feel free to e-mail [idaholive@idla.k12.id.us](mailto:idaholive@idla.k12.id.us) or call 1-800-927-8158.
- **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



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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).

- **Apply for Qwest Foundation grant** -- The 2009 Qwest Foundation for Education Grant application is now available on the State Department of Education's web site. The Qwest Foundation grants are awarded to Idaho K-12 public school classroom educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom. The purposes of this grant are to recognize public school teachers who are using technology in innovative ways in the classroom to improve student performance and to increase the use of technology in the classroom by sharing proven methods of how teachers are using technology to improve student performance. 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. All applications must be postmarked by November 20, 2009. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or [JTakata@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JTakata@sde.idaho.gov).
- **National Superintendent of Year award** -- The American Association of School Administrators National Superintendent of the Year Program 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. Visit <http://www.aasa.org/awards/content1.cfm?ItemNumber=890> for more information. The deadline to apply is **September 30, 2009**.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **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>.
- **New application for ARRA funds** -- The State Department of Education has created a new application to streamline the reporting and other requirements related to the new federal stimulus funds being distributed to Idaho schools and districts. The new application will replace the previous Quarterly Cash Balance Report. Under this new application, schools and districts will have one location to submit requests for ARRA funds as well as all grants previously submitted in the Quarterly Cash Balance Report. Due to changes at the federal level, the Department is



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moving from sending funds in advance to a strictly reimbursement format. Each person planning to use the new application must be set up with a login. To obtain a login, visit <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/portal/register/create>. Please use your official e-mail address from your school or district as your username. If you have any questions, please contact Brandon Phillips in the Accounting office at (208) 332-6867 or [BCPhillips@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:BCPhillips@sde.idaho.gov).

- **Comment on proposed rule changes** -- The official public comment period for proposed changes to Administrative Rules is June 3-June 24, 2009. During this time, you can submit comments online on proposed changes to rules related to content standard, certification and teacher performance evaluations. To submit comments, please visit the State Department of Education's Public Comment page online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/publicComments/>.
- **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).
- **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



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- 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).
  
- **RTI Lending Library now open** -- The Response-to-Intervention Lending Library is now open. The Lending Library provides RTI-related research and resources for educators and school personnel to check out. The State Department of Education does not support or advocate any particular author or publisher and offers these materials as resources only. Please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/library.htm> to learn more.
  
- **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](mailto:adsalazar@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6974.
  
- **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.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **June 30, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Title I, Part D, Subpart 1, State Agency and Title I, Part D, Subpart 2, Local Educational Agency grants per requirements of Section 1414 and Section 1423 of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. Applications and instructions are available online through the Neglected or Delinquent website. <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/neglected/>. Please contact Tyrel Trainor at (208) 332-6942 or [tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov) if you have questions.



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- **July 1, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the State Department of Education and the Idaho National Laboratory's upcoming Idaho Energy Workshop for Teachers. The workshop will be held August 3-6, 2009 at Skyline High School in Idaho Falls. To learn more or to register, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/>.
- **July 1, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices, sponsored by the State Department of Education. The Institute will be held on July 27-28 at Rocky Mountain Middle School in Idaho Falls and on July 29-30 at Wendell High School in Wendell. Visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/> to register or apply for a scholarship.
- **July 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Idaho Superintendents Network, which will support the work of district leaders in improving outcomes for all Idaho students. To download an application, visit [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov) and click on the "Administrators" link at the top of the page. Applications can be submitted via e-mail to [MBFlachbart@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MBFlachbart@sde.idaho.gov) or by mail to the following address: Marybeth Flachbart, Idaho State Department of Education, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, ID 83720-0027.
- **July 1, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark nominations for the Newspaper Fund's National High School Journalism Teacher of the Year. For more information, visit <https://www.newspaperfund.org/>.
- **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).
- **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.
- **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



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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.