



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

June 24, 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:

- **Rachel's Challenge improves school violence prevention efforts**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
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RACHEL'S CHALLENGE IMPROVES SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS (GO TO TOP)

More Idaho students have committed to treating their peers with kindness and respect as a result of a statewide effort to expand school violence prevention efforts in Idaho schools, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced today.

The Idaho State Department of Education partnered with Rachel's Challenge last year to provide subsidies to Idaho schools interested in implementing the Rachel's Challenge program. Rachel's Challenge is a multi-pronged program that focuses on reducing bullying, harassment and violence in schools. It is based on Rachel Scott's "Codes of Life", which include eliminating prejudice, daring to dream, choosing positive influences, using kind words and starting a chain reaction of kindness. Rachel was the first victim of the Columbine High School shooting tragedy.

"After attending a Rachel's Challenge Preview Event, I am convinced Idaho schools can make significant progress in creating a culture of kindness and respect through the implementation of this program. We are already seeing great results," Superintendent Luna said. "A caring school climate is essential for academic achievement to occur. To create this environment, students and staff must commit to take a stand against bullying and harassment."

Idaho partnered with Rachel's Challenge because it is a proven program that helps initiate and strengthen efforts to cultivate kindness and respect in schools across the country. In total, the State Department of Education awarded \$53,895 to 41 schools across Idaho last year. The program reached 21,160 students.

To receive the subsidy from the state, Idaho schools were required to administer an evaluation to 30 percent or more of the students who participated in the Rachel's Challenge program. The evaluations showed more Idaho students are accepting Rachel's Challenge and committed to treating their peers with kindness and respect.

Here are the highlights from the evaluations:

- As a result of participating in a Rachel's Challenge event, students reported that they definitely felt inspired to treat peers with more kindness and respect.

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- Before participating in Rachel's Challenge, students reported that they felt that writing down goals for their lives was somewhat important. After participating in the program, students reported that they felt that writing down goals for their lives was very important.
- Students reported that they were definitely committed to being a part of efforts to increase respect and kindness in their school after participating in Rachel's Challenge.
- Students felt that the presentation will make a positive difference in the way people treat each other at their school.
- Of the 11,796 students surveyed, 10,650 students (90 percent) accepted Rachel's Challenge.

If you have questions about Rachel's Challenge or school violence prevention efforts, please contact Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator, at (208) 332-6961 or MAMcCarter@sde.idaho.gov.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

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

WHAT'S NEW (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.
- **Grant Writing Workshops** -- The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and National Center for Training, Support and Technical Assistance are hosting grant writing clinics in Boise, Pocatello and Moscow. These two-day grant writing clinics are designed for both the novice and the experienced grant seeker. The clinics are limited to the first 25 participants. Here is the schedule for the clinics:
 - Boise: 8:30 a.m. on July 20-21 in the JR Williams Building. The registration deadline is **July 6, 2009**.
 - Pocatello: 8:30 a.m. on July 23-24 at Idaho State University. The registration deadline is **July 9, 2009**.
 - Moscow: 8:30 a.m. on July 27-28 at the University of Idaho, Fiske Room. The registration deadline is **July 13, 2009**.

If you have any questions regarding these clinics, please contact Rebecca Schliep at (208) 334-5937 or schliep@dhw.idaho.gov.

REMINDERS (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



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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, 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 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 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.
- **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 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.
- **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,



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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.
 - 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
- **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 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.



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- **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.
- **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.

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 if you have questions.
- **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 and click on the "Administrators" link at the top of the page. Applications can be submitted via e-mail to 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



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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.

- **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. 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. 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>.