



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**June 4, 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:**

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### **IDAHO JOINS COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS INITIATIVE (GO TO TOP)**

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna today announced that Idaho has joined the Common Core State Standards Initiative, a state-led process to develop common English-language arts and mathematics standards. The Common Core State Standards Initiative will be jointly led by the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) and the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO).

"This is a great opportunity for Idaho to work with other states across the nation to ensure our students are prepared to compete in the 21st century," Superintendent Luna said. "Idaho students are not just competing with students in Utah, Wyoming and Washington. They are competing with students in India, China and across the globe. It is our responsibility to make sure all Idaho students are prepared for the world that awaits them."

In the 26 years since the release of *A Nation at Risk*, states have made great strides in increasing the academic rigor of education standards. Yet, America's children still remain behind other nations in terms of academic achievement and preparedness to succeed.

By signing this MOA, Governor Otter and Superintendent Luna join their colleagues across the country in committing to joining a state-led process to develop a common core of state standards in English-language arts and mathematics for grades K-12. These standards will be research and evidence-based, internationally benchmarked, aligned with college and work expectations and include rigorous content and skills.

"This is a great example of states being the laboratories of the republic and taking the lead in addressing common challenges," Governor Otter said. "Education is a proper role of our state government and essential to ensuring citizens are prepared for the responsibilities of self-determination. Rigorous standards set the bar high for individual achievement and Idaho's future."



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The Common Core State Standards Initiative will build directly on recent efforts of leading organizations and states that have focused on developing college- and career-ready standards and ensure that these standards can be internationally benchmarked to top-performing countries around the world. The goal is to have a common core of state standards that states can voluntarily adopt. States may choose to include additional standards beyond the common core as long as the common core represents at least 85 percent of the state's standards in English language arts and mathematics. The second phase of this initiative is to ultimately develop common assessments aligned to the core standards developed through the process.

In addition to Idaho, the following states and territories have also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA): Alabama; Arizona; Arkansas; California; Colorado; Connecticut; Delaware; District of Columbia; Florida; Georgia; Hawaii; Illinois; Indiana; Iowa; Kansas; Kentucky; Louisiana; Maine; Maryland; Massachusetts; Michigan; Minnesota; Mississippi; Montana; Nebraska; Nevada; New Hampshire; New Jersey; New Mexico; New York; North Carolina; North Dakota; Ohio; Oklahoma; Oregon; Pennsylvania; Puerto Rico; Rhode Island; South Dakota; Tennessee; Utah; Vermont; Virgin Islands; Virginia; Washington; West Virginia; Wisconsin; Wyoming.

The NGA Center and CCSSO will coordinate the process to develop these standards and will create an expert validation committee to provide an independent review of the common core state standards, as well as the grade-by-grade standards. This committee will be composed of nationally and internationally recognized and trusted education experts who are neutral to – and independent of – the process. The college and career ready standards are expected to be completed in July 2009. The grade-by-grade standards work is expected to be completed in December 2009.

### **APPLY NOW FOR NEW IDAHO SUPERINTENDENTS NETWORK (GO TO TOP)**

As part of the continued effort to provide valuable support to Idaho schools, the Idaho State Department of Education has introduced the Idaho Superintendents Network. Through this Network, the state will support the work of district leaders in improving outcomes for all Idaho students. The first phase of the Idaho Superintendents Network will begin in August.

The goal is to create a network of 25 committed superintendents who will work together to develop a cohesive and dedicated leadership community focused on excellence in teaching. They will support each other as they bring about change and collectively brainstorm obstacles that may be preventing improvement in the quality of the instruction in their districts. Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and Deputy Superintendents Rob Sauer, Nick Smith and Dr. Marybeth Flachbart will take part in the Network.

The Department is collaborating with Boise State University's Center for School Improvement and the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership on this Network to create the Network. The meetings will be facilitated by University of Washington faculty Dr. Michael Copland and Dr. Meredith Honig. For more information on their research, please visit [www.centerforcsi.org](http://www.centerforcsi.org).

Participation in phase 1 of the Network is limited to 25 Idaho superintendents. Funding for the network is provided by Idaho's Title I School Improvement funds. Superintendents who serve a high percentage of at-risk students will receive special consideration for inclusion in this project.



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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. All applications are due to Marybeth Flachbart on or before **July 1, 2009**. 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.

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

- Superintendent Luna will speak at the Idaho Charter School Network annual conference at 9 a.m. on Monday, June 8 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak to the students at Boys State at 1 p.m. on Monday, June 8 in Nampa.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Special Olympics Breakfast with Champions at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will visit the Original Gangster's Basic Academy of Delinquency gang intervention program at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 9 in Nampa.
- Superintendent Luna is speaking to Exchange Club of Nampa at noon on Wednesday, June 9 in Nampa.

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

- **Annual Charter School Network conference Monday** -- The Idaho Charter School Network's annual conference will be held Monday, June 8 at the Northwest Nazarene University Downtown Boise Center. The conference features learning opportunities for parents, teachers, administrators and school board trustees. Dr. Changhua Wang of Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory in Portland will present the findings of the *Statewide Study of Brick and Mortar Public Charter Schools in Idaho* at 10 a.m. For more information, please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/icsn.htm>.
- **Apply for Sharing the Dream grants** -- Sharing the Dream grants, a program of the National Association of Elementary School Principals and the MetLife Foundation, 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. Programs should focus on heightening community leadership, communication, ownership and involvement in schools with the goal of improving achievement for all students. U.S. elementary and middle school principals may apply. For more on the program, please visit [www.naesp.org/resources/1/Pdfs/09SharingtheDreamApp.pdf](http://www.naesp.org/resources/1/Pdfs/09SharingtheDreamApp.pdf). The deadline to apply is **July 8, 2009**.
- **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



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previously submitted in the Quarterly Cash Balance Report. Due to changes at the federal level, the Department is 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).

### UPCOMING WEBINARS (GO TO TOP)

#### **Title I-A Basic Program - Funding at District and School Level**

- Overview: This webinar will replace the Consolidated Plan Writing Workshop for 2009-2010.
- Presenter(s): Marcia Beckman, No Child Left Behind Director, Susan Hansen, Title I Grants/Contracts, Karen Seay, Homeless Education State Coordinator
- Details: Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. MST, Aspen Room

#### **Title I-A - Basic Program - Action Planning for Regular Allocation and ARRA Funding**

- Overview: This webinar will replace the Consolidated Plan Writing Workshop for 2009-2010.
- Presenter(s): Marcia Beckman, No Child Left Behind Director, Susan Hansen, Title I Grants/Contracts, Karen Seay, Homeless Education State Coordinator
- Details: Thursday, June 11, 2009, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. MST, Aspen Room

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **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



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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 now for IDLA Summer program** -- Idaho Digital Learning Academy's (IDLA) summer courses begin June 19. Students register for the courses through their local high schools or by contacting the IDLA at (208) 342-0207. Classes are \$50. Scholarships are available for IDLA fees. For more information about the program and a full course catalog, visit [www.idahodigitalllearning.org](http://www.idahodigitalllearning.org). If you have any questions, please contact IDLA at (208) 342-0207 or [office@idahodigitalllearning.org](mailto:office@idahodigitalllearning.org).
- **IDLA Summer Conference** -- Idaho Digital Learning Academy is hosting its annual summer conference for Idaho educators on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 in Nampa. Dr. Mark Milliron, President and CEO of Catalyze Learning International, will be the keynote speaker, presenting on "A New Generation of Learning: Diverse Students, Emerging Technologies, and a Sustainability Challenge." The public is welcome to attend from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, June 16, 2009 at The Brandt Center, Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa. For more information about IDLA, visit [www.IdahoDigitalLearning.org](http://www.IdahoDigitalLearning.org).
- **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
- **Reminder: Background checks required for public driver education instructors** -- Remember that all public driver education instructors are required to complete a new background check when changing or adding employment with school districts. A new background check is also required if there is a break in service. The State Department of Education will be verifying the background check status of every instructor before licensing them. A driver education teacher is required to abide by the same background check rules set for teachers. If you have any questions, please contact the Driver Education office at the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6850.
- **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



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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.

- **RTI Conference scheduled** -- Mark your calendar! The State Department of Education's Response To Intervention Conference has been scheduled for April 13-14, 2010 at the DoubleTree Riverside in Boise. More details will be posted soon on the RTI web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>.
- **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.
- **Comprehensive Literacy Course offerings** -- The Lee Pesky Learning Center is offering Comprehensive Literacy Courses, Standards I, II and III, this summer. The courses will be offered in Boise on June 8-9, June 15-16, and June 22-23. For more information, please visit [www.LPLearningCenter.org](http://www.LPLearningCenter.org).
- **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 15, 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 [CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov). You can mail applications to:  
State Department of Education

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Office Location  
650 West State Street

Telephone  
208-332-6800

Speech/Hearing Impaired  
1-800-377-3529

Fax  
208-334-2228

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ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
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- **June 15, 2009** -- The deadline for students to apply for the Writers @ Harriman writing workshop. Thirty Idaho high school students are invited to participate in this one-week residential workshop that will be held August 2-8. Writers Chris Dempsey, Catherine Jones and Nicole LeFavour will be teaching. Students will submit a writing sample with their application. Scholarships are available. For an application and more details, visit <http://writersatharriman.org>.
- **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.
- **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/>.
- **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.



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- **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.