



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**May 15, 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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### **SUPERINTENDENT LUNA WRAPS UP POST-LEGISLATIVE TOUR (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and staff from the Idaho State Department of Education traveled across the state this week to host the 2009 Post-Legislative Tour meetings in Boise, Coeur d'Alene and Pocatello. The final meeting in Pocatello finished on Thursday, May 14, 2009.

During the Post-Legislative Tour meetings, Superintendent Luna and Department staff discussed the fiscal year 2010 Public Schools Budget, the federal stimulus package and other critical education legislation that will impact Idaho public schools next year.

All information presented during the 2009 Post-Legislative Tour is available on the Department's web site at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/postLeg/>.

### **MADISON SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WIN LINCOLN ESSAY CONTEST (GO TO TOP)**

Three students from the Madison School District won the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission Essay Competition. Here is a list of the winners:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place: Stephen Anderson, Madison Senior High School
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place: Gavin Howard, Madison Senior High School
- Honorable Mention: Ben Robbins, Madison Junior High School

The essay competition is part of the celebration to mark the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial here in Idaho. Congratulations to the winners!



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

- Superintendent Luna will host a Family Math Night for State Department of Education employees, family and friends from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday, May 18 at the Department offices in Boise. The event will kick off the Department's partnership with the Micron Foundation to donate 45 Family Math Night kits to Idaho school districts across the state as part of the Idaho Math Initiative. Members of the media are welcome to attend.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Governor's Capital for a Day activities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Paul.

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

- **Deadline extended: Apply now for writing workshop** -- The Writers @ Harriman writing workshop has extended the deadline for students to apply to **June 15, 2009**. 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>.
- **News Parents Can Use** -- The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, on restoring American leadership in higher education, is scheduled for May 19 (8:00-9:00 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **Diversity in education webinars** -- iSucceed Virtual High School, a public charter school in Idaho founded on the belief that all students should have access to a high-quality education, is offering a series of online, interactive in-service opportunities focusing on issues of diversity in education. Students and teachers from public charter schools across the state are invited to participate in five (5) different sessions:
  - Why Diversity Matters (May 18, 2009)
  - Diversity in the Classroom – *The Student Perspective* (May 20, 2009)
  - Best Practices for Effectively Teaching Diverse Students (May 21, 2009)
  - Effective Strategies for Retaining Students (May 28, 2009)
  - Teaching Low-Income Students (May 29, 2009)

For more information on the sessions, please contact iSucceed at (208) 375.3116 or e-mail [williamj@insightschools.net](mailto:williamj@insightschools.net).

- **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 June 2, 2009 or August 18, 2009, sponsored by the Idaho Financial Literacy Coalition in partnership with the State Department of Education. 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. There are five major strands to the content standards: Money Management; Savings and Investment; Education, Employment and Income; Taxation; and Data Analysis and Statistics. Free materials will



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be provided. 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).
- **Alternative Authorization requests deadline** -- The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will conduct an approval meeting on **June 15, 2009** for 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  
ATTN: Cina Oravez  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
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### WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS? (GO TO TOP)

*The highlight this week is...* **Idaho students take home awards at the National Academic Decathlon Competition!**

The academic decathlon team from Centennial High School in the Meridian School District placed 13th overall at the National Academic Decathlon in April. Centennial High previously won the state competition to earn its way to the national competition. Student Drew Carlson won a bronze medal in the Essay category, and Tracy Chen earned a silver medal in the Interview category.

In addition, Sandpoint High School in the Lake Pend Oreille School District and Bear Lake High School in the Bear Lake School District competed in the online competitions for medium and small schools. Sandpoint High finished first overall in the medium division. Bear Lake High's team finished sixth in the small school division.

Congratulations to all these students and their coaches! Keep up the great work!

*"What's Happening in Our Schools?" is a feature that appears occasionally in the Weekly E-Newsletter. It is an opportunity for us to share the great things that are happening in Idaho's public schools on a statewide level. If you have something great happening in your school, please e-mail it to Melissa McGrath at [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov) with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.*

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Apply for RTI Grant** -- The State Department of Education is accepting applications for the remaining Response-to-Intervention (RTI) Exemplary/Best Practices Grants that are available. The Department is awarding \$1,000 RTI Exemplary/Best Practices Grant to schools or districts that are using one or more aspects of RTI in ways that have significantly improved student achievement. If your school or district is interested in applying, please visit

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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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<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>. Four schools and districts have already been awarded these grants: East Elementary in Mountain Home, Dalton Elementary in Coeur d'Alene, Acequia Elementary in Minidoka County and the Emmett School District. If you have any questions about RTI in your school or district, please contact to Nancy Thomas Price, RTI Coordinator, at (208) 332-6979 or [nthomasprice@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:nthomasprice@sde.idaho.gov).

- **Date Change: School Improvement Webinars** -- The next School Improvement Webinars will be held May 19, 2009 at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Parental Involvement. The estimated time frame for all webinar sessions is 1 hour. You can register at <http://idla.blackboard.com>. Select the Idaho Live tab, and then click on "Webinar Registration." Please contact Lisa Kinnaman or Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 with any questions.
- **Scholarships for National Board Certification** -- JP Morgan Chase is giving \$16,000 in scholarships to Idaho teachers seeking National Board Certification in the 2009-2010 cycle, either first time candidates or retake candidates. Scholarships are for Boise and Moscow teachers and will be given on first-come, first-served basis to teachers in low-performing schools. Scholarships will be given when at least three teachers from their school form a cohort to complete the requirements for National Board Certification. Teachers apply for scholarships online at [http://www.nbpts.org/become\\_a\\_candidate/fees\\_financial\\_support/scholarships](http://www.nbpts.org/become_a_candidate/fees_financial_support/scholarships). If you have questions about a scholarship from Chase, contact NBPTS at [scholarship\\_manager@nbpts.org](mailto:scholarship_manager@nbpts.org) or at 1-888-908-3337.
- **IDLA Survey** -- The Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) is undertaking an in-depth program evaluation this spring that is being conducted by an outside independent contractor, Evergreen Consulting Associates. As part of this evaluation, Evergreen Consulting is asking individuals involved with the implementation and administration of IDLA in schools across the state to complete a survey about their opinions and experience with the program. IDLA thanks you for taking the time to add your valuable feedback to this process. Visit the following link to access the survey: [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=T2xqszejDQDEH6S2Fjw0Q\\_2fg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=T2xqszejDQDEH6S2Fjw0Q_2fg_3d_3d).
- **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.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or [david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil) or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or [colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil). Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or [fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil](mailto:fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil).

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

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- **May 15, 2009** The deadline to submit the third bus ridership count for FY2009. Please submit this form online in the System for Idaho School Transportation Reporting (SISTR) at <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/Transportation/SISTR/default.asp>.
- **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>.
- **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.