



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 29, 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:

- **Department awards 44 schools with school lunch equipment grants**
- **Public comment on proposed rule changes begins June 3**
- **Superintendent's Schedule**
- **What's New**
- **Upcoming Webinars**
- **Reminders**
- **Upcoming Deadlines**

DEPARTMENT AWARDS 44 SCHOOLS WITH SCHOOL LUNCH EQUIPMENT GRANTS (GO TO TOP)

The Idaho State Department of Education has awarded nearly \$500,000 in federal stimulus funding to help 44 Idaho schools purchase new school lunch equipment, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced.

As part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Idaho received \$481,315 to help Idaho schools purchase new school lunch equipment for the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, administered through the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"The nearly \$500,000 in funding for school lunch equipment will help meet a great need in Idaho schools and districts," Superintendent Luna said. "While we were only able to award grants to 44 schools, we received more than \$3 million in grant applications from 205 schools across the state."

According to federal regulations, the grants were awarded through a competitive application process and schools with 50 percent or more students on free and reduced-price lunch received the highest priority. A selection committee also looked at the level of need, the age and condition of the school's current equipment, and extenuating circumstances such as eliminating safety hazards or replacing deep fat fryers.

The 44 schools receiving the grants will use the funding to purchase various pieces of equipment, such as dishwashers, walk-in freezers, mixers, ovens, refrigerators and sinks.

Here is the list of Idaho schools awarded grants for school lunch equipment:



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<u>School</u>	<u>School District</u>	<u>Grant Award</u>
American Falls Intermediate School	American Falls School District	\$7,909.98
Bear Lake Middle School	Bear Lake School District	\$10,500.00
Naples Elementary School	Boundary School District	\$4,375.00
Rimrock Jr./Sr. High School	Bruneau Grandview School District	\$15,559.00
Syringa Middle School	Caldwell School District	\$15,531.85
Cambridge Elementary School	Cambridge Joint School District	\$5,366.55
Cascade Schools	Cascade School District	\$6,600.00
Raft River Elementary School	Cassia Joint School District	\$5,995.00
Castleford School	Castleford Joint School District	\$6,170.00
Compass Public Charter School	Compass Public Charter School	\$3,808.33
Prairie Middle School	Cottonwood Joint School District	\$8,928.33
Council Elementary School	Council School District	\$21,024.00
Emmett Jr. High School	Emmett Joint School District	\$5,797.46
A.W. Johnson Elementary School	Firth School District	\$12,784.00
Hagerman Elementary School	Hagerman Joint School District	\$9,369.00
Highland School	Highland Joint School District	\$10,780.24
Claire E. Gale Jr. High School	Idaho Falls School District	\$20,883.66
Kamiah Elementary School	Kamiah Joint School District	\$6,949.00
Farmin-Stidwell Elementary School	Lake Pend Oreille School District	\$15,155.00
Kennedy Elementary School	Madison School District	\$21,687.00
Midvale School	Midvale School District	\$2,099.00
Russell School	Moscow School District	\$6,025.00
West Middle School	Nampa School District	\$28,000.00
Notus Elementary School	Notus School District	\$11,258.50
Timberline School	Orofino Joint School District	\$9,892.00
Maxine Johnson Elementary School	Parma School District	\$13,436.35
Plummer Worley Elementary School	Plummer/Worley Joint School District	\$7,659.00
Seltice Elementary School	Post Falls School District	\$9,371.53
Potlatch Jr./Sr. High School	Potlatch School District	\$11,220.00
Richfield School	Richfield School District	\$3,500.00
Rockland Public School	Rockland School District	\$19,450.00
Salmon River Jr./Sr. High School	Salmon River Jt School District	\$25,128.00
Pioneer Middle School	Salmon School District	\$12,014.38
Shoshone Schools	Shoshone Joint School District	\$13,705.00
Soda Springs High School	Soda Springs Joint School District	\$5,141.57
Leadore Schools	South Lemhi School District	\$6,849.00
Heyburn Elementary School	St Maries Joint School District	\$24,264.00
Kershaw Intermediate School	Sugar Salem Joint School District	\$5,600.00
Swan Valley Elementary School	Swan Valley School District	\$13,265.27
Pioneer Elementary School	Weiser School District	\$3,975.00
Priest River High School	West Bonner School District	\$9,319.00
Terreton Elementary School	West Jefferson School District	\$8,693.00
Bovill Elementary School	Whitepine School District	\$5,400.00
Holmes Elementary School	Wilder School District	\$10,876.00



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PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED RULE CHANGES BEGINS JUNE 3 (GO TO TOP)

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 the following proposed rule changes:

- *IDAPA 08.02.03.004, Rules Governing Thoroughness, Incorporated by Reference-* This rule change will incorporate new Idaho Content Standards for Social Studies, Health, and Physical Education, as well as renew the Chemistry and Humanities Standards that were run as temporary rules last year. These standards are due for revision as part of the six-year curricular materials adoption cycle.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.120, Local District Evaluation Policy-* This rule change requires school district board of trustees to develop and adopt policies for teacher performance evaluation in which criteria and procedures for the evaluation of certificated personnel are research-based and aligned to Charlotte Danielson's Framework for Teaching. The changes were recommended by the Teacher Evaluation Task Force, which was charged by the Legislature with developing minimum standards for a fair, thorough, consistent and efficient system for evaluating teacher performance in Idaho last year.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.021, Rules Governing Uniformity –Endorsements-* This rule change allows Professional-Technical Education certificated personnel to add content area endorsements. This will create opportunities to expand the number of highly qualified teachers capable of teaching in core content areas, responding to a statewide challenge in meeting federal guidelines for Highly Qualified status and teacher shortages.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.027, Rules Governing Uniformity- Pupil Personnel Services Certificate-Provisional Endorsement-School Nurse-* This rule change replaces the word "Provisional" with "Interim." This rule change is in response to a need for more uniform language. The term provisional is used erroneously to describe what is truly an interim certificate.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.027, Rules Governing Uniformity, Pupil Personnel Services Certificate, Interim Endorsement-Speech Language Pathologist-* This rule change responds to a statewide challenge in meeting the shortage of qualified certificated Speech Language Pathologists. At the present time, a majority of Speech Language Pathologists are being contracted through outside agencies. This change allows districts to hire those pursuing a master's degree in speech language pathology with the hope of maintaining their services in the district once they are fully certificated.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.024, Rules Governing Uniformity- Endorsements M-Z-* In 2005 Idaho redesigned the social studies endorsement to meet the mandate of No Child Left Behind. No longer was an interdisciplinary endorsement sufficient; content expertise was to be proven in all four of the core content areas contained within the endorsement – government, economics, geography, and history. Though the original design intended to satisfy these requirements to make social studies endorsed teachers highly qualified in all of these areas, it was not found to be acceptable by the US Department of Education (USDOE). In accordance with direction given from the USDOE, changes have been made to the endorsement to bring the integrated social studies endorsement into compliance with highly qualified status in all four of the core content areas. The proposed change will align requirements and testing to make social studies endorsed teachers highly qualified in all areas and will provide greater flexibility for districts in hiring one social studies endorsed teacher as opposed to four singly endorsed teachers.
- *IDAPA 08.02.02.043 Rules Governing Uniformity, Alternative Authorization, Teacher to New Certification/Endorsement-* This rule change is necessary to assist teachers in meeting highly qualified teacher status. The traditional route to endorsement for in-service professionals seeking other endorsement areas is not sufficiently meeting the demands of school districts, particularly those in rural areas. These changes are in



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alignment with No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and allow for additional options to attain an endorsement. The four options include traditional coursework through a college or university, National Board certification, content specific graduate degree, and standardized content testing (Praxis II) with a mentoring component and/or pedagogical assessment. These additional routes expedite the attainment of endorsements for teachers who are needed to teach in areas outside of their current endorsement.

To submit comments, please visit the State Department of Education's Public Comment page online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/publicComments/> starting Wednesday, June 3.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will visit Willow Creek Elementary School in Nampa at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2.
- Superintendent Luna will visit Bonners Ferry High School in Bonners Ferry at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3 to tour the school and visit with students, teachers and administrators.
- Superintendent Luna will visit Sandpoint Charter School in Sandpoint at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 3 to tour the school and visit with students, teachers and administrators.
- Superintendent Luna will appear as a guest on KID AM's "Idaho Up Close" radio show in eastern Idaho at 9 a.m. on Thursday, June 4.
- Superintendent Luna will visit schools in Arco and Mackay on Friday, June 5 to learn more about the Rural Idaho Outreach Partners program, a business-education partnership created by the owners of Premier Technology Inc. in Blackfoot.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **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 a variety of trainings and workshops this summer. Pre-registration is required and is available online at <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



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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.idahodigitallearning.org. If you have any questions, please contact IDLA at (208) 342-0207 or office@idahodigitallearning.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.
- **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
- **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 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/>.
- **NWPE Teacher Scholarship and Classroom Mini-Grant Program** -- Northwest Professional Educators (NWPE) provides up to \$500 awards for continuing education scholarships and classroom mini-grants. Additionally, NWPE provides \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants for teachers new to their district or grade level. All educators are eligible for the awards. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at www.nwpe.org. The following teachers received grant awards during the spring: Anne-Marie Bebber of Meridian School District, Darrell Edson of Castleford School District, Gail Roberts of Idaho Arts Charter School, John Slack of Idaho Department of Juvenile Corrections, Dale Walker of Bonneville School District and Julie Williams of Sandpoint Charter School.

UPCOMING WEBINARS (GO TO TOP)

Consolidated Plan Writing Training

- Overview: This session will provide training specific to the writing of Migrant objectives and action strategies in the CIP tool to align with the goals of the Migrant Education Program. In addition critical updates to the MEP will be provided such as funding and Priority for Services protocol.
- Presenter: Mary Lou Lopez, State Coordinator Migrant Education Program, Idaho SDE
- Details: Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m. MST, Aspen Room

Title III-LEP - 2008-2009 LEP Data Collection

- Overview: This training is to go over the LEP Data Collection spreadsheet required for all districts that served LEP students during the 2008-2009 academic year. The presenters will go through each question one-by-one so district directors have a clear understanding of what the questions asking and what information is needed by the State Department of Education. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and get clarification.
- Presenter(s): Dr. Fernanda M. Brendefur, Title III/LEP Coordinator at the Idaho State Department of Education and Wendy St. Michell, LEP Program Manager for the Idaho State Board of Education
- Details: Thursday, May 28, 2009, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. MST, Aspen Room

Title II-A Requirements for Consolidated Plans

- Overview: This session will provide guidance on conducting needs assessments, developing action plans, writing professional development plans, and program evaluation for districts' consolidated plans. A brief overview of allowable activities and state priorities for Title II-A funds will also be presented.
- Presenter: Joe Burris, Coordinator Title II-A, Idaho State Department of Education.
- Details: Tuesday, June 2, 2009, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. MST, Aspen Room



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Title IV - Safe and Drug Free Schools

- Overview: The Title IV/State Tobacco Tax (Safe and Drug Free Schools) webinar will cover LEA reporting requirements related to 2008-2009 program evaluation and the 2009-2010 program application. The evaluation and application process for this program has changed significantly from previous years, it is critical that SDFS Coordinators attend a training to learn the new online system. Funding for this program will not flow until LEA evaluation and application are approved by the SDE. The session will cover all aspects of the evaluation/application including budget reconciliation, incident reports, budget setting, allowable expenditures and program inventory.
- Presenter: Matt McCarter, Safe and Drug Free Schools Coordinator
- Details: Thursday, June 4, 2009, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. MST, Aspen Room

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)

- **Register now for Summer Institute of Best Practices** -- The State Department of Education is hosting the Idaho Summer Institute of Best Practices on the following dates:
 - July 27-28: Rocky Mountain Middle School, Bonneville School District, Idaho Falls
 - July 29-30: Wendell High School, Wendell School District, WendellTo see a full list of presentations and to register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/registration/idahosummer/>. For more information, please contact Rob Sauer, Deputy Superintendent, at (208) 332-6934 or RCSauer@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Idaho Energy Workshop for Teachers** -- The State Department of Education and the Idaho National Laboratory are pleased to announce the upcoming Idaho Energy Workshop for Teachers. Classroom teachers (K-12) from across Idaho will have a unique opportunity to receive training, information and hands-on activities to teach students about energy. Participants will receive information regarding the science of energy, wind, solar, nuclear, geothermal, fossil fuels, biomass, and energy conservation and consumption. The workshop will be held August 3-6, 2009 at Skyline High School in Idaho Falls. Up to 3 graduate credits will be offered. Scholarships of \$75 per day for travel and lodging if further than 75 miles from Idaho Falls (\$300 total) are available. To learn more or to register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/science/>. The deadline to register is **July 1, 2009**.



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- **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.
- **Ideal scholarships available** -- State Treasurer Ron Crane will award ten \$529 scholarships to be used in funding Ideal accounts this year. Ideal is a 529 college savings plan sponsored by the State of Idaho, named after Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. Treasurer Crane has pronounced May 29 (5/29) as 529 College Savings Day throughout Idaho and will award one scholarship winner on that day. Funding for the scholarships comes from Qwest. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles may enter the drawing for a scholarship by sending their name, address, phone number, and email address to: Attn: IDEal Scholarship, Idaho State Treasurer's Office, P.O. Box 83720, Boise, Idaho 83720-0091. All entries must be received before **June 5, 2009**. One winner will be drawn live on May 29 at the Boise City Hall Plaza from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The remainder will be drawn at random on June 9, 2009. To learn more, please visit www.idsaves.org or call 1-866-433-2533.
- **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 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 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 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.
- **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)

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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- **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. You can mail applications to:
State Department of Education
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 if you have questions.
- **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. 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.