



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**October 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

### **IN THIS REPORT:**

- **State Board honors Idaho schools for academic achievement**
- **Idaho students increase math scores on national assessment**
- **Superintendent Luna to host webinar on Race to the Top**
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### **STATE BOARD HONORS IDAHO SCHOOLS FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT (GO TO TOP)**

Thirty-one different Idaho schools walked away with 57 Distinguished School or Additional Yearly Growth awards on Thursday. Representatives from schools throughout Idaho were honored by the Idaho State Board of Education as part of the Board's regularly scheduled meeting. The awards are given annually in October by the Board based on school's performance on the Idaho Standard Achievement Test (ISAT).

Sacajawea Elementary of Caldwell, Ridge Crest Elementary of Blackfoot and Groveland Elementary of Blackfoot were recognized as the 2009 Distinguished School Award winners. Groveland was singled out by winning the award in two different categories, an incredible achievement. To be designated a Distinguished School, a school must be in the top 5% of schools who make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for two consecutive years and reduce the gap in groups or sub-groups by at least 10%.

Fifty-three schools earned the Additional Yearly Growth Award for 2009. To earn an Additional Yearly Growth Award, a school must make AYP two consecutive years and show an improvement of at least 10% in one of the designated groups or subgroups.

Van Buren Elementary of the Caldwell School District led the state with seven Additional Yearly Growth Awards. In addition to Van Buren and Sacajawea Elementary Schools, Wilson Elementary of Caldwell was also recognized.

Lakeside Middle School of Plummer Worley, Seltice Elementary of Post Falls, Sorenson Elementary of Coeur d'Alene along with McSorely Elementary of Lewiston were all present to receive their awards directly from the Board.



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Board staff will present the awards to schools that were unable to be honored in person with the Board over the next two weeks. That schedule is set as follows:

- Schools in the Treasure Valley will be honored on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, 10am in Nampa at the CWI Canyon County Center.
- Schools in Eastern Idaho will be honored on Monday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, 1pm at University Place, Bennion Student Union Center, Room 109 at 1pm.
- Schools in northern Idaho will be honored on Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at various times.

Interested media, members of the community and parents are encouraged to attend any of the presentations.

To view the entire list of schools earning awards this year, please visit the Board's web site at [www.boardofed.idaho.gov](http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov).

### **IDAHO STUDENTS INCREASE MATH SCORES ON NATIONAL ASSESSMENT (GO TO TOP)**

Idaho was one of only 14 states that had a significant increase in eighth grade math scores from 2007 to 2009, according to the most recent results of the National Assessment for Educational Progress (NAEP).

"The results of the National Assessment of Educational Progress are just one more indicator that student achievement is increasing across Idaho. I am proud of Idaho students and their teachers for making these significant strides," Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna said. "The performance of Idaho students on national and statewide assessments demonstrates that the resources we have directed into the classroom through the Idaho Math Initiative and Classroom Enhancement Package are helping Idaho students to meet high academic standards."

According to NAEP, 78 percent of Idaho 8th grade students scored on grade-level or above in mathematics this year, compared to just 75 percent of Idaho students in 2007. The average score for Idaho 8th graders was 287, which was statistically higher than the national average of 282.

On average, students in 12 states scored above Idaho 8th grade students in 2007. In 2009, students in just 8 states scored above Idaho 8th graders.

NAEP, also known as the "Nation's Report Card," is the only nationally representative and continuing assessment of what America's students know and can do. Its major goals are to measure student achievement and to report change in performance over time. NAEP provides results for the nation and for the states, but does not provide scores for Idaho school districts, schools, classrooms, or individual students.

A random sample of Idaho students in 4th and 8th grades took the 2009 NAEP in mathematics.

The math scores for students in 4th grade held steady with about 85 percent of Idaho fourth grade students scoring at or above grade level. The fourth grade had an average score of 241 in both 2007 and 2009. Still, Idaho fourth grade students performed above the national average score of 239.



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For more detailed results, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/naep/>.

### **SUPERINTENDENT LUNA TO HOST WEBINAR ON RACE TO THE TOP (GO TO TOP)**

In partnership with representatives of educational stakeholder groups across Idaho, Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna will be hosting a webinar from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. MT on Tuesday, October 20, 2009 to update superintendents, school board trustees and other educators on Idaho's plans to apply for the federal Race to the Top grant.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan has discretion over \$5 billion through the federal stimulus package, known as the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Secretary Duncan has said he will make \$4.35 billion available to states through competitive Race to the Top grants to encourage and reward states that are creating and implementing education innovation and reform.

The Race to the Top funds will be a great opportunity for Idaho public schools to receive additional resources to invest in innovation reforms that will help raise student achievement, increase graduation rates and prepare Idaho students to be successful in life after high school.

Superintendent Luna has been working with representatives from the Idaho Association of School Administrators, Idaho Superintendents Association, Idaho Education Association and Idaho School Boards Association since early September to develop ideas for Idaho's Race to the Top application. Superintendent Luna and the group of educational stakeholders invites all superintendents, public charter school administrators, school board trustees and other educators to participate via IdahoLive on October 20 to learn more about our efforts to apply for Race to the Top funds and provide feedback on the application process. The group is encouraging the superintendent, school board chair and a teacher representative from each district and public charter school to participate in the webinar together.

If you have any questions about the webinar, please contact Melissa McGrath at the State Department of Education at (208) 332-6818 or [mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov).

To learn more about Race to the Top, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/programs/racetothetop/index.html>.

Here are more details on the IdahoLive webinar:

The webinar on Race to the Top will be held Tuesday, October 20, 2009 from 5:00-7:00 pm MST. To register for your IdahoLive session, visit <https://sites.google.com/a/idla.k12.id.us/idlive/register-here-for-idaholive-webinars>. Follow the instructions on the page to register. Participation in this webinar requires a computer with internet access as well as a headset or speakers. To be able to speak with the presenter, you will also need a microphone. A headset and microphone is ideal, however one can participate without having a microphone.

Please take a moment prior to the meeting to run the setup wizard (<http://67.202.210.70/wizard/launcher.cgi?wc=wms>) to ensure compatibility between your machine and the meeting room. Logging in as a participant, you will not need a password. 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.



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### **NEW IDAHO SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING TOOL (GO TO TOP)**

Over the next year Idaho is shifting to a new school improvement planning tool called the WISE (Ways to Improve School Effectiveness) Tool. This year, there is a choice to submit required School Improvement Plans in the CIP Tool, or in the WISE Tool. Schools will then be required to submit School Improvement Plans in the WISE Tool for the 2010-11 review cycle. Districts will continue to use the CIP Tool for submitting their Consolidated Plan Application, and will also have the WISE Tool available for District Improvement Plans.

- **School Improvement Plan Writing Workbook:** A detailed School Improvement Plan Writing Workbook is online at <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/SIPPlans.html>. This workbook includes a variety of information related to school improvement, as well as a step-by-step instruction manual with screen-shots for using the WISE Tool.
- **WISE Tool Webinars:** A series of 6 webinar trainings for the WISE Tool were conducted this fall. The archived WISE Webinar presentation can be accessed by going to the IdahoLive tab of the IDLA website at [www.IdahoDigitalLearning.org](http://www.IdahoDigitalLearning.org). Scroll down to "IdahoLive Archived Sessions" and click on School Improvement Webinar Series.
- **Regional WISE Support Sessions** -- Space is still available at the remaining regional in-person support sessions. A morning session is available from 9 a.m. to noon and another session in the afternoon from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. More information about the WISE Tool Regional Support Sessions is online at <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/RSS.html>.
  - North: October 26 in Kellogg, November 9, Sandpoint
  - Southeast: October 27 in Rupert, October 30, Chubbuck
  - Southwest: October 16 in Nampa, October 20 in Nampa
- **WISE Tool Resources & Support** -- Additional WISE Tool resources and school improvement support are available online at <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/WISETool.html>.

If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Kinnaman at [lisakinnaman@boisestate.edu](mailto:lisakinnaman@boisestate.edu) or Katherine Weatherspoon at [Katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu](mailto:Katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu) with event registration information.

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

- Superintendent Luna will attend the inauguration ceremony for new University of Idaho President Duane Nellis at 10 a.m. PT on Friday, October 16 in Moscow.
- Superintendent Luna will visit schools in the Genesee School District at 1 p.m. PT on Friday, October 16 in Genesee.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Board of Land Commissioners meeting at 9 a.m. PT on Tuesday, October 20 in Moscow.



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- Superintendent Luna will host a webinar to update superintendents, school board members and educators on Idaho's application for federal Race to the Top funds at 5 p.m. MT on Tuesday, October 20 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will speak to regional superintendents from the Treasure Valley and surrounding areas at 10:15 a.m. MT on Wednesday, October 21 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Red Ribbon "UR Choice, UR Voice" event at 7 p.m. MT on Wednesday, October 21 in Nampa.
- Superintendent Luna will speak to the 2009 Leadership Boise class at 8:30 a.m. MT on Thursday, October 22 in Meridian.
- Superintendent Luna will visit the Lights On After School Program at Maxine Johnson Elementary School at 5 p.m. MT on Thursday, October 22 in Parma.

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

- **Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11** -- According to Idaho Code 33-512, "Each Veterans Day, each school in session shall conduct and observe an appropriate program of at least one (1) class period remembering and honoring American veterans ..." To assist Idaho schools program planning, the State Department of Education has posted the lesson plan *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty* online at [http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/social\\_studies/](http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/social_studies/). This lesson plan is to be used in conjunction with the book by the same name. A donation of this book has been made to each high school library through the generosity of Albertsons and in cooperation with the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. The lesson plan will allow students to focus on the true meanings of courage, sacrifice and patriotism as they explore America's history. Many other lesson ideas, school kits, and teacher resources about Veterans' Day can also be found at the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs web site at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/>.
- **IFARMS Annual Financial Report due** – As required by Idaho Code 33-701(5), Idaho public school districts and charter schools must prepare and publish their annual statement of financial condition. The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms include three different formats that may be used for publication. Please see the 2008-2009 Annual Report Pages 98-107 at [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/ifarms\\_forms.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm) for these examples. Specifically, look at pages 105-107. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov). The reports are due **October 28, 2009**.
- **Reserve a Family Math Night kit for your school** -- As part of the Idaho Math Initiative, the State Department of Education has partnered with the Micron Technology Foundation to donate *Math Fun d'Mentals* Family Math Night Kits to schools and districts across Idaho. We distributed 45 kits in April 2009 and are ready to distribute another 45 kits this October. These kits contain games, activities, materials and everything you need to host a Family Math Night -- except the volunteers. Visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/FamilyMathNight/> to see if your local school district has a Family Math Night kit available for your school. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact Katie Walker at [kwalker@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:kwalker@sde.idaho.gov).



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- **Parents, Principals, and Librarians to Discuss School Libraries** -- This month, State Librarian Ann Joslin sent a letter of invitation to all school principals and librarians to attend a "Partnerships and Conversations" meeting near them. In November and December, the Idaho Commission for Libraries will facilitate 16 small group gatherings in elementary and middle school library settings. The two-hour sessions are designed to bring together school librarians, parents, and school administrators to discuss the role of a strong school library program in student academic success. In addition, the use of technology in the school library and the value of partnerships will be explored. To learn more, visit [libraries.idaho.gov/SLPartners](http://libraries.idaho.gov/SLPartners).
- **Spring MTI Course schedule now posted** -- The State Department of Education has posted the schedule for Mathematical Thinking for Instruction (MTI) courses in Spring 2010. To learn more, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/math/mti.htm>.
- **Health Educator Training** -- The State Department of Education is offering health educator training on the 7/8 Grade F.L.A.S.H. (Family Life and Sexual Health) Curriculum. F.L.A.S.H. is a comprehensive sexuality education curriculum that has been adopted and widely used in schools in Washington and throughout the United States. The curriculum aligns with current National Health Education Standards, which are being used to model the updates to Idaho Health Education Standards. Three two-day training sessions will be held November 11-12, 2009 in Coeur d'Alene, January 27-28, 2010 in Boise, and February 24-25, 2010 in Pocatello. To learn more or to register, please visit [www.centerforhealthtraining.org](http://www.centerforhealthtraining.org). If you have questions, contact Lisa Kramer, HIV/Health Education Coordinator, at (208) 332-6947 or [lkramer@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:lkramer@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Financial Literacy Challenge** -- The Students In Free Enterprise team at the University of Florida is conducting the 3rd annual Financial Literacy Challenge for high school students. The UF SIFE Financial Literacy Challenge is a multiple choice, multiple-round, online quiz competition about basic financial literacy topics. Visit [www.knowmoremoney.org](http://www.knowmoremoney.org) to learn more and download study materials. This year, the competition will award \$2,000 to the first, second, and third place winners.

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Department hosts 2009 Holiday Card Contest** -- The State Department of Education is now accepting entries for its annual Holiday Card contest to draw attention to art programs in Idaho's elementary schools. One drawing is selected for the Department's holiday greeting and posted online at [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov). The child who submits the selected artwork also receives cards for his or her own use. The winning entry for each grade receives a certificate. The contest is open to all public school students in grades K-6. Submissions must be postmarked by Friday, **November 6, 2009**. Please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov) and download the rules and regulations posted under the "Latest News" section on the home page. If you have questions, please contact Melissa McGrath, the Department's Public Information Officer, at (208) 332-6818 or [MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov).
- **IRI reporting extension** -- Due to the technical difficulties many districts have faced with adding or uploading scores into AIMSweb this fall, the State Department of Education has extended the window for recording all Fall IRI scores from until Monday, **October 19, 2009**. If your school or district will not meet this deadline, please contact Jenny Fisk, Reading Coordinator, at (208) 332-6927.



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- **Discounted Idaho Steelhead tickets for educators** -- Idaho employees working in education can enjoy discounts at the Idaho Steelheads hockey games in Boise on October 16 and 17. You will receive a special price on tickets of \$11 plus a \$1 ticketing fee. With each purchased ticket, you'll also receive a voucher good for one free RR Ranch hot dog and a Pepsi product. Tickets will be located on the Upper Level of Qwest Arena. Game time is 7:10 p.m. To order your tickets, simply click on the link below and you'll be directed to our secure internet site, enter the below password information and select the event date of the game you wish to attend. Ticket orders must be placed at least 24 hours prior to game date OR subject to availability. Please do not refresh your browser during the sales process. Link: <https://www.groupticketwindow.com/groupticket/event/global-qwest/group>  
(ALL CAPS)  
LOGIN: STATEED  
PASSWORD: EMPLOYEE
- **Enrollment Options Survey due** -- Idaho Code Section 33-1402, requires the State Department of Education to conduct an annual survey regarding enrollment options in school districts across Idaho. Please complete the survey online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/AnnualEnrollmentOptionsSurvey.asp>. The deadline to submit surveys is **October 30, 2009**. For more information, please see Sections 33-1402 and 33-1404, Idaho Code, which are available online at <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/idstat/Title33/T33CH14.htm>. If you have questions please contact Camille Wells at (208) 332-6812 or [cwells@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:cwells@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Apply now for the Qwest Foundation for Education Grant:** The Qwest Foundation has donated \$75,000 to the State Department of Education to grant funding for K-12 public school teachers across Idaho to spend on technology in the classroom. The purposes of the Qwest Foundation for Education grant is to recognize Idaho K-12 public school teachers who are using technology in innovative ways to improve student performance and increase the use of technology in the classroom. Grant proposals may be written for up to \$10,000 each. Applications must be postmarked by **November 20, 2009**. To learn more or to download an application, visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech\\_services/grants\\_contracts.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm). If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at [jtakata@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jtakata@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6937.
- **Update on Governor's Innovative Grant** -- The Governor's office sent a letter to all schools in July, informing them that the Governor's Innovative Grant will not be funded for the 2009-2010 school year due to serious budget challenges. The Governor said that encouraging teachers to introduce creative and innovative projects and learning tools into the classroom remains a priority and hopes grant will be funded in the future.
- **Register now for Idaho School Boards Conference** -- The Idaho School Boards Association (ISBA) will host its annual convention November 11-13, 2009 at the Coeur d'Alene Resort in Coeur d'Alene. For more information or to register, please visit <http://www.idsba.org> or contact Misty Jones at [misty@idsba.org](mailto:misty@idsba.org).
- **Celebrate School Bus Safety Week** -- Join the State Department of Education in celebrating School Bus Safety Week on October 19-23 to recognize the important contributions the transportation community makes to education in Idaho. Safe bus rides to and from school are a necessary part of our education system and help make our communities wonderful places to live.



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- **Guidance on serving meals if school is closed** -- The Child Nutrition Programs at the State Department of Education has sent a reminder to all districts about the requirements for feeding children in the event of a pandemic influenza outbreak. Each district must decide if it will feed children in the event of a school closure. To help your school decide, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/stateGuidance/#SFSP\\_FY09](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/stateGuidance/#SFSP_FY09) and review the available documents. Remember, the district will need to have a Summer Food Program or Seamless Summer Option Waiver in place before the school closes for an influenza outbreak, and a plan must be in place and approved before the school can start serving meals. If you have any questions about this program, please do not hesitate to contact the state Child Nutrition office at (208) 332-6820.
- **Alternate Authorization deadline is November 3** -- The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will meet to review Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests on **November 3, 2009**. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Lackey, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. Only complete packets will be reviewed. Incomplete packets will be returned. Please be sure to sign the application and include board minutes. If you have questions, please contact Cina Lackey 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 Lackey  
PO Box 83720  
Boise, ID 83720-0027  
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- **Poetry Out Loud competition** -- The Idaho Commission on the Arts invites high school teachers of English, speech or dram to enter students in the statewide Poetry Out Loud competition. By encouraging high school students to memorize and perform great poems, Poetry Out Loud brings the dynamics of the spoken word and theater into the classroom, helping students master public speaking skills and learn about their literacy heritage. The Commission will accept entries from the first 25 schools that fax their commitments to (208) 334-2488. Cash prizes will be awarded for winners of the state and national competitions. For more information, please contact Cort Conley at [cconley@arts.idaho.gov](mailto:cconley@arts.idaho.gov) or visit [poetryoutloud.org](http://poetryoutloud.org).
- **Hispanic Youth Summit** -- The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs is hosting the fourth annual Hispanic Youth Summit on October 30, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. To register, please visit [www2.state.id.us/icha](http://www2.state.id.us/icha) or contact Juan Saldaña at [juan.saldana@icha.idaho.gov](mailto:juan.saldana@icha.idaho.gov) or (208) 334-3776.
- **IEA Cold Hard Cash Awards** -- The Idaho Education Association is offering Cold Hard Cash awards for Idaho classrooms. The IEA will draw eight winners each month from September through May. Each winner will receive \$50 to be used to upgrade his/her classroom. The entry form is available at [idahoea.org/explore-iea/awards/cold-hard-cash](http://idahoea.org/explore-iea/awards/cold-hard-cash). Just click on the "Cold Hard Cash" icon and submit your completed form. If your name is drawn, you will receive a check from IEA to use in your classroom. If you don't win, your name will be placed in the drawing for the next month. Please note: Only "New Teachers" (those in their first through fifth year of teaching) are eligible to win.
- **Project Learning Tree professional development** -- Project Learning Tree now offers online registration and payment for its professional development workshops. Visit [www.idahoforests.org/pltl.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/pltl.htm) for the class schedule and more information.



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- **Program to support children with parents in National Guard and Reserve** -- The Idaho National Guard Family Programs Office will sponsor a *Supporting Children of the National Guard and Reserve Institute* in February 2010. The Institute is a two-day professional development program designed for school counselors, administrators, other school personnel, and family support personnel of the National Guard and Reserves. The purpose of the training institute is to prepare school personnel to recognize and address issues that children face when a parent is deployed by the National Guard or Reserves. Those interested in attending are encouraged to contact Michael Judah, Joint Family Support Assistance Program (JFSAP) MOS Consultant, at (208) 570-3746 or [michael.g.judah@militaryonesource.com](mailto:michael.g.judah@militaryonesource.com), or contact Annie Henna Estvold, State Youth Coordinator, at (208) 272-4387 or [annie.henna@id.ngb.army.mil](mailto:annie.henna@id.ngb.army.mil).
- **Online teacher evaluation training now available** -- The State Department of Education is offering all Idaho educators free online training for the new statewide standards for teacher performance evaluations based on the Charlotte Danielson Teaching Framework. The online program is jointly produced by Charlotte Danielson and Educational Impact Inc. to allow teachers and evaluators to see what the Danielson Framework components look like in real classrooms. For more information on the statewide framework or the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>. If you have any questions, please contact Nick Smith at (208) 332-6959 or [NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Title II-A webinar series** -- The State Department of Education is hosting a series of IdahoLive webinars focused on Title II-A funds through January. Joe Burris, Title II-A Coordinator, will host each webinar. For more information, visit [www.idahodigitallearning.org](http://www.idahodigitallearning.org), click on the "IdahoLive" tab and then click the "Future Webinars" link. If you miss a webinar, the entire series will be archived online at: [http://www.idahopd.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab\\_tab\\_group\\_id=204\\_1](http://www.idahopd.org/webapps/portal/frameset.jsp?tab_tab_group_id=204_1).
- **H1N1 information for schools** -- The State Department of Education is working with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare to update the H1N1 information webpage online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/flu/>. Please check this page regularly for the most up-to-date information to help you prepare for potential Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza cases in schools. If you have any questions, please contact the local health district in your area. For a full list of contacts, please visit <http://healthandwelfare.idaho.gov/Health/HealthDistricts/tabid/97/default.aspx>.
- **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 grant writing workshop** -- The Idaho POST Academy and Grant Writing USA will present a two-day grant writing workshop in Meridian on October 26-27, 2009. Beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities are encouraged to attend. Multi-enrollment discounts are available. Tuition is \$425 and includes class workbook and accompanying resource



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CD. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. For more information, please visit <http://www.grantwritingusa.com/events/write/boid1009.html>.

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Oct. 15, 2009** -- The deadline to submit the IDEA Part B and Preschool Application for federal special education funding. This year's application includes budget forms for additional IDEA Part and Preschool funding received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The application is available online at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special\\_edu/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu/). It is especially important, due to increased federal reporting requirements, that all eligible school districts and local education agencies (LEAs) submit the application by the due date or earlier. If you have questions or need help with a password, please contact Sherry McKnight at [SRMcKnight@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:SRMcKnight@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6910.
- **Oct. 15, 2009** -- The deadline to submit the Required Title I-A Annual Comparability Assurance Form(s), which can be found under Title I-A Annual Reports at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/). All LEAs receiving Title I-A funds must submit the Assurance either to show exemption or comparability with regard to state and local spending. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Hansen at (208) 332-6900 or [SCHansen@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:SCHansen@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Oct. 15, 2009** -- The deadline for all secondary public schools serving grades 9-12 and elementary schools wishing to seek accreditation to submit the NAAS Annual Report. The annual reports can be accessed online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/accreditation/annualReports.htm> and submitted electronically to [NAAS@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:NAAS@sde.idaho.gov). If you have questions, please contact Vikki Reynolds, IDSAC Executive Secretary, at (208) 830-1777 or [execsec@NorthwestAccreditation.org](mailto:execsec@NorthwestAccreditation.org).
- **Oct. 15, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program, which provides opportunities for K-12 teachers to participate in direct one-to-one exchanges of positions with colleagues from other countries for a semester or academic year. To learn more, visit [www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org) for application forms. For questions, please contact [fulbrightcte@aed.org](mailto:fulbrightcte@aed.org).
- **Oct. 16, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the Curricular Materials Caravan meetings scheduled across Idaho. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/curricular\\_materials/cm\\_docs/2009TextbookCaravanFlyer.pdf](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/curricular_materials/cm_docs/2009TextbookCaravanFlyer.pdf) for more information or contact Val Fenske at [vafenske@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:vafenske@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Oct. 21, 2009** -- The deadline to submit comments on the draft of college- and career-readiness standards in English-language arts and mathematics, which are part of the Common Core State Standards Initiative. This Initiative is a process being led by governors and chief state school officers in 51 states and territories. Idaho is participating in this process. To view the standards and submit comments, please visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). Feedback must be supported by research and evidence.
- **Oct. 28, 2009** -- The deadline for school districts and charter schools to prepare and publish their annual statement of financial condition as required by Idaho Code 33-701(5). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms include three different formats that may be used for publication. Please see the 2008-2009 Annual Report Pages 98-107 at



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[www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/ifarms\\_forms.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm) for these examples. Specifically, look at pages 105-107. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).

- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit your application for the 2010 United States Senate Youth Program funded by the William Randolph Hearst Foundation. Principals in every high school were mailed a packet of information in August explaining the scholarship process, timelines for completion, and student eligibility requirements. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Salazar at (208) 332-6974.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for students to postmark submissions for the Idaho Forest Products Commission's 15th annual Essay Contest in observance of National Forest Products Week, October 18-24. The contest is open to all K-12 students in Idaho. Visit [www.idahoforests.org/essay\\_contest.htm](http://www.idahoforests.org/essay_contest.htm) for contest guidelines, writing prompts, scoring criteria and prize information. All who write an essay receive a Certificate of Participation. Contact IFPC at [plt@idahoforests.org](mailto:plt@idahoforests.org) with any questions.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the RTI District Leadership Summit in Idaho Falls, which will be held on November 19, 2009. For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>.
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for submissions for the Idaho National Laboratory's 60th Celebration Student Video Contest, which includes several \$500 cash prizes for winning middle- and high-school classrooms. Idaho middle and high school students are encouraged to prepare a two- to five-minute video or podcast on the topic: What 60 Years of INL's Energy Innovation Means to a New Generation of Energy Consumers. The purpose of this contest is to enhance students' research and fact-finding skills and to educate them on the types of energy we use today and INL's contributions to the evolution of our national energy landscape. More information is available at [https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS\\_0\\_291\\_45875\\_0\\_0\\_18/60th%20Anniversary%20Contest.final.pdf](https://inlportal.inl.gov/portal/server.pt/gateway/PTARGS_0_291_45875_0_0_18/60th%20Anniversary%20Contest.final.pdf).
- **Oct. 30, 2009** -- The deadline for all local school districts and public charter schools to submit Financial Status Reports for the previous fiscal year online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/accounting/FederalPrograms/default.asp>. These reports are not affected by the change to the Grant Reimbursement Application and should be filled out the same as they have been in previous years.
- **Oct. 31, 2009** -- The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit their 2008-2009 IFARMS Annual Financial Report as required by Idaho Code 33-701(7). The IFARMS Annual Financial Report forms and supporting documents can be found at [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/ifarms\\_forms.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/ifarms_forms.htm). If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Oct. 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.
- **Oct. 31, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the upcoming Idaho H<sub>2</sub> Education Workshop, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen Program, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Idaho State Department of



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Education, Northwest Nazarene University, and the NEED Project. The workshop gives classroom teachers (grades 6-12) a unique opportunity to learn about hydrogen and participate in hands-on activities to teach students about hydrogen. The workshop will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 7, 2009 at Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) in Nampa. The workshop is free. To register, visit [www.regonline.com/idahohydrogen](http://www.regonline.com/idahohydrogen). If you have questions or need further information, contact Wendi Moss at [wmos@need.org](mailto:wmos@need.org) or 800-875-5029.

- **Nov. 1, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for Care and Share grants, which provide up to \$500 in funding for K-12 public school teachers and students to assist in the implementation of community service projects in the classroom. For more information, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn\\_serve/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn_serve/). If you have questions, contact Tina Naillon at (208) 332-6904 or [tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Nov. 2, 2009** -- The deadline for Idaho schools and districts to post a link on their websites to the state online School Report Cards, as required under No Child Left Behind. The Report Card provides an in-depth look at student achievement at the state, local and school levels with the click of a button. These reports are a great way for Idaho parents and citizens to see how Idaho schools are performing. The School Report Cards are available at [www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard).
- **Nov. 10, 2009** -- The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit their 2008-2009 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the audit report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Nov. 20, 2009** -- The deadline to postmark an application for the 2009 Qwest Foundation for Education Grant, which is awarded to Idaho K-12 public school classroom educators who demonstrate innovative uses of technology in the classroom. 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. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or [JTakata@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JTakata@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Dec. 1, 2009** -- The deadline for school districts to apply for professional development grants. The State Department of Education is providing a School Improvement grant opportunity for professional development. School districts that receive Title I-A funding may apply for additional financial support in order to fund the basic costs of educators who participate in Idaho Online Professional Development (I-OPD) workshops. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/) and look under "Grant Opportunities" to apply. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Underwood at [sunderwood@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:sunderwood@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6922.
- **Dec. 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.
- **Jan. 8, 2010** -- The deadline to apply for NanoTeach's year-long, nationwide pilot program for high school teachers. The program starts in the summer of 2010. Utilizing the *Designing Effective Science Instruction (DESI)* framework, teachers will learn to integrate nanoscience and technology content (NS&T) into their *existing*



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curricula. Through lessons and experiences that model the *DESI* instructional framework, participants will investigate dynamic NS&T content while delving into strategies that support effective science teaching. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.mcrel.org/NanoTeach/Recruiting>.

- **Jan. 15, 2010** -- The deadline to apply for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards Program, which offers fellowships to highly accomplished U.S. and international teachers to conduct research, take courses for professional development, lead master-level seminars, and engage in other activities such as in-service training for local teachers. During the program Distinguished Teachers will work towards the completion of a capstone project of their own design. To learn more, visit [www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org) for application forms. For questions, please contact [fulbrightdat@aed.org](mailto:fulbrightdat@aed.org).