



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

October 8, 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:

- **Boise teacher wins \$25,000 Milken Educator of the Year Award**
- **Department hosts 2009 Holiday Card Contest**
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BOISE TEACHER WINS \$25,000 MILKEN EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD (GO TO TOP)

A science teacher at South Junior High School in Boise received the 2009 Milken Educator Award for Idaho during a surprise assembly Wednesday morning.

Aaron McKinnon, a 9th grade physical science teacher, won the \$25,000 prestigious award from the Milken Family Foundation for working to raise student achievement and creating innovative ways to keep students engaged in class. He also receives an all-expenses-paid trip to Los Angeles to participate in the Milken National Education Conference focused on solutions to America's pressing challenges in education today.

"Mr. McKinnon is a great example of the highly effective and hard-working educators we have here in Idaho, and I am honored to present him with the prestigious Milken Educator of the Year Award," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna. "I am also grateful to the Milken Family Foundation for its help to recognize excellent teachers in Idaho and across the United States."

McKinnon's identity was kept secret until Superintendent Luna announced the award during a school-wide assembly at South Junior High School on Wednesday morning. Superintendent Luna was joined by Boise School District Superintendent Dr. Stan Olson, Dr. Thomas Boysen of the Milken Family Foundation, and Idaho's Teacher-in-Space and Boise State University Distinguished Educator in Residence Barbara Morgan.

After the announcement, McKinnon said he was humbled by the award. "I love teaching. It's what I do. I wake up early, get to school early, and I stay late," he said.

McKinnon told his class he would spend a portion of the money throwing a party with an inflatable bounce house so he could teach lessons about increases in pressure and decreases in volume.



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McKinnon is now one of 11 educators in Idaho who have received the prestigious Milken Educator Award since Idaho joined the Milken program in 2003. More than 2,300 educators have received the award nationwide.

The Milken Family Foundation was established in 1982 to discover and advance inventive and effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The Foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in education and medical research. For more information about the Milken Family Foundation, please visit www.mff.org.

About Aaron McKinnon

For ninth-grade science teacher Aaron McKinnon, the school day is never boring. His students at South Junior High in Boise, ID, never know what surprises are in store for them during their next physics or math lesson. McKinnon creates interactive ways of learning and teaching, and constantly thinking outside the box— which can oftentimes be the classroom— for innovative ways of presenting information to his students. He regularly uses art projects and outdoor activities to demonstrate math and science problems. He has also been charming students with the hand-made toys he builds to demonstrate the laws of physics. It's no wonder that 95 to 99 percent of students pass his class each semester.

McKinnon has a proven interest in teacher training and sharing his knowledge with others, not just with his students at South Junior High. McKinnon wrote curriculum for a modified physical science class for English Language Learners (ELL) and special education populations and is a district trainer for teachers as well as a trainer for other districts. He teaches on evenings and weekends at the Idaho Digital Learning academy, and also asks his students to become teachers in their own rite, giving extra credit if students teach a family member what they have learned in class. A man of many skills and interests, McKinnon works as an intramural coach for South Junior High, is an active member at his church and serves as a local Boy Scout troop leader.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS 2009 HOLIDAY CARD CONTEST (GO TO TOP)

Each year, the State Department of Education sponsors a Holiday Card contest to draw attention to art programs in Idaho's elementary schools. One drawing is selected for the Department's holiday greeting. The child who submits the selected artwork receives cards for his or her own use. The winning entry for each grade also receives a certificate.

This art contest is a very special tradition here at the State Department of Education, and we all look forward to continuing the tradition this year and seeing examples of elementary school children's art on display. The following lists some considerations:

1. The contest is open to public school students in grades K-6.
2. Drawings should reflect winter scenes in Idaho appropriate for seasonal correspondence, and should not include copyrighted images such as Garfield the Cat, Bugs Bunny, Digimon characters, etc.
3. Drawings should be on 8.5" by 11" paper in a landscape format.
4. Drawings must be properly labeled. Write the name of the student, the student's grade, district, school, and the teachers name on the back of the artwork. Please make sure this information is legible. (If you submit multiple grade levels, please keep the entries for each grade level separate.)



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5. Students may use as many colors as they wish in their drawings and may use watercolors, colored paper, magic markers, crayons, or some combination. Bold colors work best for the printing process. *Please note:* Fabric designs and pencil drawings are not suitable to our printing process and will not be selected.
6. Students must be advised that entry into this contest constitutes (1) a waiver of all copyrights students have in their entries, and (2) permission to republish entries without compensation.
7. Drawings will not be returned.
8. The winning entries from each grade level will be published on the Idaho State Department of Education Web site at www.sde.idaho.gov.
9. Submissions must be postmarked by Friday, **November 6, 2009**. Results will be announced in December. Drawings may be mailed to:
State Department of Education
Attn: Melissa McGrath
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027

If you have questions, please contact Melissa McGrath, the Department's Public Information Officer, at (208) 332-6818 or MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will visit Eagle High School at 7 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14 in Eagle to join Meridian teachers as they use the Idaho Education Network to communicate and collaborate on lesson plans.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the Idaho State Board of Education meeting on Thursday, October 15 at Lewis-Clark State College in Lewiston.
- Superintendent Luna will visit Webster Elementary School in Lewiston at 1 p.m. on Thursday, October 15 to honor the school for recently receiving the national Blue Ribbon Award.
- Superintendent Luna will visit schools in the Genesee School District at 1 p.m. on Friday, October 16 in Genesee.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **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. If your school or district will not meet this deadline, please contact Jenny Fisk, Reading Coordinator, at (208) 332-6927.
- **Webinar on Assessment Plans** -- Nancy Thomas Price, RTI Coordinator for the State Department of Education, will host a webinar on IdahoLive titled "Guidance for building and using a comprehensive Assessment Plan."



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While many school districts and schools have extensive assessment programs, the RTI framework provides an opportunity to review the value of these varied assessments. Webinar participants will receive guidance in reviewing and constructing their assessment plans and understanding how they are useful within an RTI framework. The webinar will be held from 3:30-5:00 pm MST on Monday, October 12, 2009 in the Cedar Room of IdahoLive. Visit www.idahodigitallearning.org for more information.

- **Discounted Idaho Steelhead tickets for educators** -- Employees working in Idaho education can enjoy discounts at the Idaho Steelheads hockey games in Boise on Friday October 16 and Saturday October 17. You will receive a special price on tickets of \$11 plus a \$1 ticketing fee. Normal price is \$19. 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
- **Financial Status Reports due** -- Please remember that all local school districts and public charter schools must submit Financial Status Reports for the previous fiscal year online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/accounting/FederalPrograms/default.asp>. The deadline to submit is **October 30, 2009**. 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.
- **Enrollment Options Survey due** -- Idaho Code Section 33-1402, requires the State Department of Education to conduct an annual survey regarding the enrollment options program to determine, ". . . the number of participants, the number of denied applications, the effectiveness of the program, and other relevant information, and prepare an annual report of the program." To complete the survey, please visit <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.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS? (GO TO TOP)

The highlight this week is ... Lakevue Elementary in Vallivue School District

KTVB NewsChannel 7 in Boise highlighted the Buddy Room program at Lakevue Elementary as part of its Sevens' Heroes weekly segment. In the Buddy Room, students from throughout the school volunteer to help students with special needs. They work with students in the classroom and befriend them during and after the school day. According to the report, about 15 percent of the students at the school are part of the buddy room program.



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"It makes my heart feel warm and happy," one student volunteer said.

You can see the full story online at <http://www.ktvb.com/news/sevens-hero/>.

"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 with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Apply for a classroom clicker set** -- The State Department of Education is offering 52 sets of student response system technology to Idaho classroom teachers. More commonly referred to as "clicker" technology, the student response systems help raise student achievement in the classroom by keeping students engaged and collecting immediate, accurate data on student learning. Applications are due **October 9, 2009**. To apply to receive a clicker set for your classroom, please visit the Department's web site at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm and download the 2009 Project BRAIN Grant Application. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at jtakata@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6937.
- **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. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at jtakata@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6937.
- **Grants available for professional development** -- 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. Workshop topics and dates are outlined at www.idahopd.org. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/ and look under "Grant Opportunities" to apply. The deadline for applications is **December 1, 2009**. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Underwood at sunderwood@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6922.
- **Register now for Curricular Materials Caravan** -- The Curricular Materials Caravan will travel across Idaho throughout October. Here is the schedule:
 - Oct. 14: University Inn, Best Western Conference Center, Moscow
 - Oct. 27: Holiday Inn, Boise Airport Conference Center, Boise
 - Oct. 28: Best Western Burley Inn Convention Center, Burley
 - Oct. 29: Shilo Inn, Convention Center, Idaho FallsAll meetings will be held from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The deadline to register for Moscow is October 2, 2009. The deadline to register for all other meetings is October 16, 2009. Visit



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http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/curricular_materials/cm_docs/2009TextbookCaravanFlier.pdf for more information or contact Val Fenske at vafenske@sde.idaho.gov.

- **Care and Share grants available** -- The Classroom Care and Share grants 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. Care and Share projects must: develop an understanding and appreciation of humanity and community service; cultivate an ethic of giving; provide youth with charitable learning experiences that enable them to realize their own power to make a difference in the community through the simple act of giving. The deadline to apply is **November 1, 2009**. For more information, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/learn_serve/. If you have questions, contact Tina Naillon at (208) 332-6904 or tmnaillon@sde.idaho.gov.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Opportunity for high school science teachers** -- NanoTeach is recruiting 30 high school teachers for a year-long, nationwide pilot program starting 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* 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>.
- **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 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



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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. You can mail applications to:

State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Lackey
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
Boise, ID 83720-0027

- **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 or visit 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 or contact Juan Saldaña at 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. 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.
- **EarthTracks newsletter fall issue** -- *EarthTracks*, Idaho's environmental education newsletter, is now available at www.idahoforests.org/news.htm. Check it out for professional development opportunities and teaching resources.
- **Project Learning Tree professional development** -- Project Learning Tree now offers online registration and payment for its professional development workshops. Visit www.idahoforests.org/plt1.htm for the class schedule and more information.
- **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



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michael.g.judah@militaryonesource.com, or contact Annie Henna Estvold, State Youth Coordinator, at (208) 272-4387 or 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/>. To obtain IDs and passwords to the Educational Impact training:
 - 1) Designate one person from your school district to act as the point of contact.
 - 2) Be prepared to provide the exact number of teachers and administrators in your school district.
 - 3) Contact Educational Impact's fulfillment director, Lu Mack at: 215-672-2093 ext 254 or at lmack@educationalimpact.com
 - 4) Educational Impact will email you the appropriate number of IDs and passwords. Lu Mack will also include a one page "Getting Started" sheet that we recommend you distribute with the User IDs and passwords.If you have any questions, please contact Nick Smith at (208) 332-6959 or 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, 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.
- **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 or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or 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.
- **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>.

- **Conference for Hispanic students and parents** -- The Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs is hosting the "Emerging Hispanic Students and Parents in Education" conference from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on October 20-21, 2009 at the Best Western Caldwell Inn & Suites. The conference will focus on academic transitions, cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, cultural competency and parental involvement. The conference is open to counselors, administrators, paraprofessionals, superintendents and anyone working directly with Hispanic students who would benefit from this training. For more information, contact Juan Saldana at (208) 334-2147 or juan.saldana@icah.idaho.gov.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Oct. 9, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for one of 52 sets of student response system technology that the State Department of Education is donating to Idaho schools. More commonly referred to as "clicker" technology, the student response systems help raise student achievement in the classroom by keeping students engaged and collecting immediate, accurate data. Visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech_services/grants_contracts.htm to download the 2009 Project BRAIN Grant Application and apply. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at jtakata@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6937.
- **Oct. 9, 2009** -- The deadline for Special Education Exiting Data Collection. Districts and public charter local education agencies (LEAs) report information on those students who were at least 14 years last December 1 and who exited special education for any reason between December 2, 2009 and June 30, 2009. The Special Education Student Enrollment System (Child Count) for all LEAs can be downloaded from the Secure Remote File Manager online at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/special_edu/child_count.htm.
- **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/. 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 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/. 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.
- **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



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NAAS@sde.idaho.gov. If you have questions, please contact Vikki Reynolds, IDSAC Executive Secretary, at (208) 830-1777 or 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 for application forms. For questions, please contact fulbrightcte@aed.org.
- **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. Feedback must be supported by research and evidence.
- **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 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 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.
- **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. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JOberle@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



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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.

- **Oct. 31, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the upcoming Idaho H₂ Education Workshop, hosted by the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrogen Program, Idaho National Laboratory (INL), Idaho State Department of 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. If you have questions or need further information, contact Wendi Moss at wmoss@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/. If you have questions, contact Tina Naillon at (208) 332-6904 or 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.
- **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.
- **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 to download the application form. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or 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/ and look under "Grant Opportunities" to apply. If you have any questions, please contact Steve Underwood at sunderwood@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6922.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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- **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. All awards are competitive.
- **January 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 for application forms. For questions, please contact fulbrightdat@aed.org.