



## STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**September 1, 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:**

- **Superintendent Luna announces New Nutrition Standards**
- **Apply now for a clicker technology set in your classroom**
- **Online training for teacher evaluations now available**
- **Update on ARRA fund reporting**
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- **Reminders**
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### **SUPERINTENDENT LUNA ANNOUNCES NEW NUTRITION STANDARDS (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna has announced that all Idaho public schools will be implementing new nutrition standards for school meals this fall to improve the health and nutrition of all Idaho students.

"Studies show that eating healthy, nutritious meals has a positive impact on student achievement. That is why it's critical for Idaho schools to offer healthy choices and instill nutritious eating habits in students throughout the year," Superintendent Luna said. "While many Idaho schools already serve nutritious, balanced meals every day, these new nutrition standards will ensure Idaho leads the nation in our efforts to improve the health and wellness for all Idaho children."

In 2008, the State Department of Education's Child Nutrition Programs worked with foodservice professionals and dietitians from across Idaho to develop 14 new nutrition standards based on the most recent Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Currently the USDA, which manages the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs, is updating its dietary requirements in a partnership with the Institute of Medicine. Idaho is being proactive in implementing new standards now to improve the nutrition of all school meals.

Under the new nutrition standards, all Idaho schools participating in the National School Lunch Program will:

- Serve more foods with whole grains, fruits, vegetables, beans, low-fat milk and lean protein;
- Limit foods high in fat, sodium or sugar; and

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- Discontinue salt shakers, sugar packets, deep-fat fried foods and foods with trans fats.

The State Department of Education has been working with schools since January to train school foodservice staff and educate parents, teachers and administrators on the new nutrition standards. To assist schools throughout the transition, the Department has created guidance, recipe ideas and 14 training videos, which are all available online. In addition, the Department has created information specifically for parents so they can offer more healthy choices to their children at home. The web site includes tips, suggestions and recipe ideas.

To learn more about the new nutrition standards or to view the training videos, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/>.

### **APPLY NOW FOR A CLICKER TECHNOLOGY SET IN YOUR CLASSROOM (GO TO TOP)**

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna has invested in additional technological opportunities for Idaho classrooms. Through Project BRAIN, the Idaho State Department of Education will grant sets of student response system technology, more commonly referred to as "clicker" technology, to teachers or teams of teachers across Idaho.

The clicker technology helps raise student achievement in the classroom because it keeps students engaged in the lesson and collects immediate, accurate data for the classroom teacher. Through a student response system, Idaho teachers can ask students questions and have students respond by clicking the correct answer on a hand-held device. Only the teacher will know the individual's response to the question. Based on the feedback, a classroom teacher can see where students are struggling and guide instruction in the future.

The deadline to apply is **October 9, 2009**. If you or teachers within your school are interested in applying, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/tech\\_services/grants\\_contracts.htm](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](mailto:jtakata@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6937.

### **ONLINE TRAINING FOR TEACHER EVALUATIONS NOW AVAILABLE (GO TO TOP)**

Starting in Fall 2011, all public school teachers in Idaho will be evaluated using a model aligned to the statewide standards based on the Charlotte Danielson Teaching Framework. To help teachers get more from their evaluations, the Idaho State Department of Education has purchased a professional development program to provide training for every teacher and administrator in the state.

This program was 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! The goal of the program is to provide every Idaho teachers with an online tool that will allow them to view exemplary teachers in the classroom and model best practices.

For more information on the statewide framework or the Teacher Performance Evaluation Task Force, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacherEval/>.



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To obtain IDs and passwords for every teacher and administrator in your school district:

- 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](mailto: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](mailto:NWSmith@sde.idaho.gov).

### UPDATE ON ARRA FUND REPORTING (GO TO TOP)

After gathering feedback from districts across Idaho and taking into consideration that most of the salaries and benefits paid in July and August were accrued as FY2009 expenditures, the State Department of Education is changing the payment of ARRA stabilization funds from the October 1 payment to the November 15 payment.

The October 1 payment will still comprise approximately 30% of your estimated funding (all state dollars) for FY2010 and the November 15 payment will still comprise approximately 20% of your estimated funding (combination of state and ARRA dollars) for FY2010. The ARRA stabilization dollars are NOT in addition to the dollars appropriated in the FY2010 public school appropriation.

Requests for ARRA stabilization dollars must be made on or before October 30 for payment to be made with the November 15 foundation payment. We recommend school districts and charter schools only include FY2010 expenditures when requesting ARRA stabilization funds. It is now our understanding that, once you have completed the drawdown process for the ARRA stabilization funds, no further reporting requirements will be required at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Reminder: ARRA Funds Training. The Department's Chief Fiscal Officer (Louie Konkol) will be presenting on the ARRA funding and reporting requirements during the IBEDS workshops that will be held throughout Idaho during the next two weeks. To view the agenda and/or to register for a workshop, please go to [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/training.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/training.htm).

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or [JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov).

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

- Superintendent Luna will visit with the Region 1 Professional Development Council from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Wednesday, September 2 in Coeur d'Alene.
- Superintendent Luna will visit the Plummer-Worley School District from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 3 in Plummer and Worley.



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- Superintendent Luna will speak to the Coeur d'Alene Rotary Club at noon on Friday, September 4 in Coeur d'Alene.
- Superintendent Luna will throw out the opening pitch on Kids' Appreciation Night at the Boise Hawks game at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 4 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will participate in a news conference to launch *Start Strong Idaho*, a collaboration among the Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, Idaho State Department of Education, St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and several other community partners to promote the development of healthy relationships among 11-to-14-year-olds.

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

- **Let us know about upcoming fall conferences** -- The State Department of Education is working to compile a list of all fall in-service days to distribute to Idaho schools. If you or your organization is hosting a conference during the fall in-service days, please e-mail the information to Melissa McGrath at [mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov). Please include the title of the conference, dates, times, locations, cost, information on how to register, and contact information in case people have questions. We will post all fall in-service conferences on our web site and in upcoming newsletters.
- **Nominate an Idaho Teacher of the Year** -- Now is the time to nominate a teacher for Idaho Teacher of the Year! The Idaho Teacher of the Year Program, which began in 1959, is one of the most prestigious honors in the state for teachers. The program focuses public attention on excellence in teaching that has a real impact on the students of Idaho.
- The Idaho Teacher of the Year is chosen from among the districts' nominees by a selection committee representing the state education leaders and lawmakers. Each school district and charter school may nominate one teacher. The Idaho Teacher of the Year also becomes a nominee for the National Teacher of the Year, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers that is sponsored by Scholastic Inc. Applications are due **September 30, 2009**. Visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher\\_of\\_year/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_of_year/) to download the application.
- **Annual Accreditation Reports due October 15** -- All secondary public schools serving grades 9-12 and elementary schools wishing to seek accreditation, must submit NAAS Annual Reports by **October 15, 2009**. The annual reports can be accessed online at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/accreditation/annualReports.htm>. All annual reports should be submitted electronically to [NAAS@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:NAAS@sde.idaho.gov). In addition to submitting your annual reports, each school accredited by NAAS is required to make dues payments by **October 1, 2009** each year. A late fee of 10% will be assessed to all schools for any late dues. The Idaho Northwest Accreditation Association will be hosting regional administrator trainings during September. For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/accreditation/meetings.htm>. For schools seeking NAAS Accreditation for the first time, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/accreditation/firstTime.htm>. If you have questions, please contact Vikki Reynolds, IDSAC Executive Secretary, at (208) 830-1777 or [execsec@NorthwestAccreditation.org](mailto:execsec@NorthwestAccreditation.org).



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

*The highlight this week is ... Minidoka County School District*

The Minidoka County School District has many reasons to celebrate this year. First, Minico Senior High School made AYP for the first time this year and is continuing to raise student achievement. Four other schools in the district also made AYP.

Thanks to the efforts of the local community, the district also opened two new elementary buildings opened this year -- the first new schools to open in Minidoka County in more than two decades. Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Acequia Elementary School along with Reps. Maxine Bell and Bert Stevenson and Sen. Dean Cameron. The new facility replaces a building from the 1920s. The new Heyburn Elementary School replaced a building from the 1930s. It has taken five years for the district to get these buildings approved and constructed.

The two new schools will house about 780 students this year.

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

### REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Idaho Online Professional Development** -- The State Department of Education and Idaho Digital Learning Academy are partnering to provide ongoing, high-quality professional development to all Idaho educators. The Fall 2009 term is scheduled for September 28 to November 15. There is a 25-participant maximum per workshop so please register as soon as possible. To learn more or to register, please visit [www.idahopd.org](http://www.idahopd.org).
- **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).
- **IBEDS/HQT/ARRA training starts this week** -- Based on the request of local school districts, the State Department of Education has expanded the 2010 IBEDS/HQT Data Collection workshops to include training sessions on the ARRA funding and reporting requirements. The workshops begin September 2 in Coeur d'Alene and are scheduled throughout the state until September 15. To register, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/IBEDSTraining.htm>.
- **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



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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).
- **Criminal History Check policy for student teachers** -- The State Department of Education has posted new information on the policy for Criminal History Checks of student teachers. Please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher\\_certification/criminal\\_history.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_certification/criminal_history.htm) to download the policy. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Haas at (208) 332-6888 or [SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:SHHaas@sde.idaho.gov).
- **Alternate Authorization deadline is September 17** -- The Professional Standards Commission Authorization Committee will meet to review Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests on **September 17, 2009**. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Lackey, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. 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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- **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 CD. Seating is limited, online reservations are necessary. For more information, please visit <http://www.grantwritingusa.com/events/write/boid1009.html>.
- **Constitution Day is September 17** -- In 2004, the United States Congress enacted Public Law 108-447, Section 111(b) requiring that *"each educational institution that receives federal funds for a fiscal year shall hold an educational program on the United States Constitution on September 17 of such year for the students served by the educational institution."* Idaho's legislators throughout the years have recognized the importance of understanding the United States Constitution as a living document and its impact on our everyday lives by adopting Idaho Code 33-1602, *"instruction in the Constitution of the United States shall be given in all elementary and secondary schools"*. Additionally, Idaho Code 73-108B identifies that, *"September 17 shall be designated as constitutional commemorative day."* As a result, all local education agencies receiving federal funds must teach about the U.S.



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Constitution on September 17th of each year. A list of available resources to help you design an instructional program for Constitution Day is available at [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social\\_studies/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/social_studies/).

- **Educator Training for alternative school staff** -- *Making Proud Choices!* is a curriculum that integrates teen pregnancy prevention along with HIV/STD prevention. *Making Proud Choices A Safer Sex Approach to STDs Teen Pregnancy and HIV/Prevention Curriculum* is a curriculum that provides young adolescents with the knowledge, confidence and skills necessary to reduce their risk of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV and pregnancy. A training session will be held October 7-8, 2009. To learn more or to register, please visit [www.sde.idaho.gov/site/csh/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/csh/). 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).
- **Attendance and Enrollment Training Workshops** -- Here are the dates and locations of the 2009 Attendance and Enrollment Training Workshops:
  - Boise: Friday, September 18, State Department of Education offices, Barbara Morgan Conference Room
  - Coeur d'Alene: Wednesday, September 23, Midtown Meeting Room, 1505 N 5th Street
  - Lewiston: Thursday, September 24, Lewiston District Office Board Room, 3317 12th Street
  - Blackfoot: Tuesday, September 29, Performing Arts Center, Blackfoot High School, 870 S Fisher Ave
  - Jerome: Wednesday, September 30, Jerome Middle School, 520 10th Ave. WestRegistration forms and other materials for the workshops are posted online at: [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance\\_tech/training.htm](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/finance_tech/training.htm). If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Greg Berg at [GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov).
- **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](mailto:juan.saldana@icah.idaho.gov).

### UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **September 8, 2009** -- The deadline to register for the 2009 Federal Programs Director's Meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at the Doubletree Riverside in Boise. To register, please visit [http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title\\_one/](http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/).
- **September 10, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Training for Idaho Instructional Leaders program, which is a professional development opportunity focused on improving instruction. It is open to administrators and staff from schools and districts requesting assistance with their school improvement efforts. To learn more or to apply, visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Improvement/ILT.html>. Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on **September 10, 2009**. If you have questions, please contact Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 or [katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu](mailto:katherineweatherspoon@boisestate.edu).



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- **October 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).
- **October 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.
- **October 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for awards up to \$500 for Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. All educators are eligible for the awards. Each teacher must submit a short application describing the continuing education opportunity or class project, an itemized budget, and the academic benefit for students. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org). All awards are competitive.
- **December 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. Teachers new to their district or grade level are eligible for the awards. Each teacher submits a short application describing their needs for setting up their classroom. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at [www.nwpe.org](http://www.nwpe.org). All awards are competitive.
- **September 30, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the American Association of School Administrators National Superintendent of the Year Program, which pays tribute to the talent and vision of the men and women who lead the nation's public schools. The maximum award is \$10,000. For more information, please visit <http://www.aasa.org/awards/content1.cfm?ItemNumber=890>.
- **November 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).
- **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](http://www.fulbrightteacherexchange.org) for application forms. For questions, please contact [fulbrightdat@aed.org](mailto:fulbrightdat@aed.org).