



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 10, 2009

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

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DEPARTMENT CREATES NEW ONLINE SCHOOL REPORT CARDS (GO TO TOP)

The State Department of Education has created new online School Report Cards that provide 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.

Per state and federal regulations, all public schools and districts are required to disseminate the School Report Cards to the public. In previous years, Idaho public schools and districts had to fill out templates for each school and district showing student achievement. Now, they can just link to the information posted on the Department's web site. The Department has created more in-depth guidance for Idaho schools and posted it online under the "School Accountability Report Cards" link on the Title I page of the Department's web site at http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/title_one/.

The School Report Cards are available at www.sde.idaho.gov/reportcard. Report cards should be linked to from the school and district websites no later than **November 2, 2009**.

The Department is continually working on ways to improve the report card, and we welcome your suggestions and feedback. We do anticipate having it available in Spanish in the near future. For further questions or comments about the School Accountability Report Cards please contact Joan MacMillan, Parent Involvement Coordinator, at jemacmillan@sde.idaho.gov or (208) 332-6917.



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NOMINATE A TEACHER FOR IDAHO TEACHER OF THE YEAR (GO TO TOP)

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/ to download the application.

REGISTER NOW FOR FALL CONFERENCES (GO TO TOP)

The following is a list of many of the 2009 fall in-service conferences scheduled across Idaho. Please let us know about other upcoming fall in-service conferences. We will update this list in future newsletters. 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. 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.

Idaho Council of Teachers of English (ICTE) and Idaho Council of the International Reading Association (ICIRA)

Title: "A Change of Season: The Art of Literacy"

Date/Location: Mountain View High School, Meridian, ID on October 1-2, 2009.

Contact: Maggie Chase, maggiechase@boisestate.edu

Idaho Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) and Idaho Science Teachers Association (ISTA)

Title: "Technology in Math and Science for a Changing World"

Dates/Location: Borah High School, Boise, ID on October 1-2, 2009.

Contact: Kim Zeydel, kzeydel@idahoctm.org or <http://www.idahoctm.org/FallConference.html>

Idaho Council for History Education (ICHE)

Title: "Empires Gained, Empires Lost"

Date/Location: Boise High School, Boise, ID on October 1-2, 2009

Contact: Russ Heller, russ.heller@boiseschools.org

Boise School District, Boise State University, Serve Idaho, and community members (open to all educators)

Title: "The Complete Guide to Service Learning"

Date/Location: October 1, 2009 at the Boise School District



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Contact: Gayl Loutzenheiser, gayl@cablone.net

Idaho Falls School District (open to all educators)

Title: "2009 Whole Child, Whole Teacher"

Date/Location: Thursday, Oct. 1 at Skyline High School.

Contact: For more information, go to www.d91.k12.id.us

Speech and Theatre Teachers

Date/Location: October 1-2, 2009 at Hemingway Elementary in Ketchum

Contact: For more information, contact Harrison.TracyJ@meridianschools.org

Idaho Art Educator's Association

Title: "Art is Essential"

Date/Location: Oct 1-2 at Wood River Middle School, Hailey

Contact: http://www.idahoarted.org/files/IAEA_2009_April_Newsletter.doc or
Karen Fothergill, karen.fothergill@filer.k12.id.us

Idaho Orff-Schulwerk Association

Title: 2009 Fall Mini-Conference

Date/Location: Oct 1-2, 2009 at Fremont H. Teed Elementary, Kuna

Contact: Anita Edwards, aedward@kunaschools.org or visit
<http://www.idahoorff.org/Documents/IdahoOrffConferenceNewsletter2009.pdf>.

Idaho Association Teachers of Language and Culture

Title: "50 Golden Years and Moving Forward"

Date/Location: Oct 1-2, 2009 at South Junior High School, Boise

Contact: Dennis Ohrtman, dwohrtman@aol.com or visit www.iatlc.org

American Choral Director's Association of Idaho

Date/Location: Oct 1-2, 2009 at Church of the Big Wood, Ketchum

Contact: President Quinn Van Paepeguem at vanpaepeguem.quinn@meridianschools.org or visit
<http://idacda.org/>

Idaho Library Association

Date/Location: September 30-October 30, 2009 at Best Western in Burley

Contact: Rena Ferguson at rferguson@ifpl.org or visit <http://www.2009ila.blogspot.com/>

Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO) Orientation and Refresher Training

Date/Location: Regional trainings starting September 16 through September 25, 2009.

To see a full schedule or to register, visit <http://itcnew.idahotc.com>

Rachel's Challenge

Title: "Touch the Heart, Change the Student"

Date/Location: October 1-2, 2009 in Boise and Pocatello



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Contact: Visit www.rachelschallenge.org/PD/ or call (877) 895-7060

Idaho Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (IAHPERD)

Title: "Breaking Loose on the Palouse"

Date/Location: October 1-2, 2009 at University of Idaho, Moscow

Contact: Karla Harmon, 208-883-1465 or harmank@sd281.k12.id.us or visit <http://www.idaho-ahperd.org/>

Council for Exceptional Children (CEC)

Title: "Professionals: Working for Kids Today and Education Tomorrow!!"

Date/Location: October 1-3, 2009 in Sun Valley

Contact: Visit <http://www.idahocec.org/>

Idaho School Counselor Association

Title: "Bridging the Achievement Gap"

Date/Location: October 1-2, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center, Nampa

Contact: Chris McNaught, mcnaught.chris@gmail.com

Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs

Title: 4th Annual Hispanic Youth Summit

Date/Location: October 30, 2009 at the Nampa Civic Center, Nampa

Contact: Register at visit www2.state.id.us/icha or contact Juan Saldaña at juan.saldana@icha.idaho.gov or at (208) 334-3776

Idaho State Department of Education Child Nutrition Programs

Child Nutrition Programs is hosting a series of workshops throughout September and October, including the following:

- CACFP New Center
- Cooking with Whole Grains
- Healthy Edge
- Menu Planning for New Nutrition Standards
- Personal Management
- Serving It Safe

Contact: Visit <http://www.databasesdoneright.com/nutrition/> for full details

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend the State Board of Land Commissioners meeting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15 in Boise.
- Superintendent Luna will attend the grand opening of Van Buren Elementary School at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15 in Caldwell.



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WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Department receives grant to help implement new nutrition standards** -- The State Department of Education, Child Nutrition Programs (CNP) was awarded the federal 2009 Team Nutrition Grant to expand and enhance training programs and resources that will support the implementation of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans in meals and help create an environment for children and students that is conducive to healthy eating. The grant totals \$240,214 over two years. Through this grant, CNP will focus on implementing programs to support Idaho's New Nutrition Standards for School Meals and healthy learning environments, including providing schools with healthy breakfast and lunch menus, training school foodservice on culinary techniques, expanding Farm-to-School technical assistance and resources, offering healthy school environment workshops for school leaders, identifying best practices and successes in school wellness.
- **NSBA to host webinar on H1N1** -- The National School Boards Association is hosting a webinar on H1N1 flu for school policymakers/decision makers. Experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and US Department of Education will share guidance on how to prepare for what could be a challenging school year. The webinar will be held at 1 p.m. MT on Tuesday September 15, 2009. To register, visit <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/624304120>.
- **Register for RTI Leadership Summit** -- The first of three RTI District Leadership Summits will be held in Lewiston on Thursday, September 24, 2009. The deadline to register is **September 11, 2009**. The two additional Summits will be held in Nampa on October 23, 2009 (deadline to register is October 2, 2009) and in Idaho Falls on November 19, 2009 (deadline to register is October 30, 2009). For more information, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/rti/>.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **Apply now for clicker sets for your school** -- The State Department of Education is granting 52 sets of student response system technology, more commonly referred to as "clicker" technology, to teachers or teams of teachers across Idaho. The clicker sets helps raise student achievement in the classroom because it keeps students engaged in the lesson and collects immediate, accurate data for the classroom teacher. 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 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.
- **Idaho's new nutrition standards** -- Starting this fall, schools participating in the National School Lunch Program will implement new nutrition standards for school meals to improve the health and nutrition of all Idaho students. Under the new nutrition standards, schools 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 discontinue salt shakers, sugar packets, deep-fat fried foods and foods with trans fats. The Department has posted a guidance book, 14 training videos and recipe ideas online to assist schools with implementation this year. 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, visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cnp/>.



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- **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.
- **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.
- **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. 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.
- **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>.



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- **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.
- **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 to download the policy. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Haas at (208) 332-6888 or 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. 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. 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/.



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- **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/. If you have questions, contact Lisa Kramer, HIV/Health Education Coordinator, at (208) 332-6947 or 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. If you need additional information or have questions, please contact Greg Berg at 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.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Sept. 30, 2009** -- The deadline to submit applications for Idaho Teacher of the Year Program. To learn more, visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/teacher_of_year/ and download the application. If you have questions, please contact Melissa McGrath at (208) 332-6818 or mrmcgrath@sde.idaho.gov.
- **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 for application forms. For questions, please contact 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.



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- **October 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for awards up to \$500 for Teacher Scholarships and Classroom Mini-Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. All educators are eligible for the awards. Each teacher must submit a short application describing the continuing education opportunity or class project, an itemized budget, and the academic benefit for students. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at www.nwpe.org. All awards are competitive.
- **December 31, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants from Northwest Professional Educators. Teachers new to their district or grade level are eligible for the awards. Each teacher submits a short application describing their needs for setting up their classroom. Teachers may obtain applications by filling out a contact form on the NWPE website at www.nwpe.org. All awards are competitive.
- **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 to download the application form. If you have questions, please contact Jimmy Takata at (208) 332-6937 or 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 for application forms. For questions, please contact fulbrightdat@aed.org.