

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, Oct. 27, 2021

[www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov)

**Media Contact:**

Kristin Rodine  
Public Information Officer  
208-332-6807  
[krodine@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:krodine@sde.idaho.gov)

**Idaho gains significant ground in national rankings for student achievement, more**

(BOISE) – Idaho public school students’ academic success is on the rise, as is the state’s ranking nationwide, according to [a new Quality Counts report](#) released by Education Week. That’s great news, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said.

“According to Ed Week’s latest national study, Idaho ranks 17<sup>th</sup> for student achievement among all states and the District of Columbia,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “That’s particularly encouraging considering that our ranking for 2016 (released in December 2015) was 31<sup>st</sup> in the nation. And it’s gratifying because the rank is largely based on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the only assessment that gives us apples-to-apples comparisons with other states”

Rankings are based on the percentage of Idaho 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders proficient in the 2019 NAEP math and reading assessments, as well as the improvement in NAEP scores since 2003. Other factors in the rankings include graduation rates and advanced placement scores.

Idaho’s score for student achievement was 73.3 out of a possible 100, earning the state a grade of C, up from a D+ in 2016. No states earned A grades this year, two earned Bs (Massachusetts and New Jersey), and Florida had a B-. Idaho fared better in the rankings than neighboring Oregon and Montana (D+), Washington (C-), and Wyoming and Nevada (C). Utah also earned a C with a slightly higher student achievement score than Idaho’s.

State-by-state student achievement results were released in September as the third of three annual components that make up the year-end Quality Counts report. The others are Chance for Success and School Finance.

“We have made progress in each of the three categories every year,” said Superintendent Ybarra, who took office in 2015. “This trend is very encouraging, and Idaho students, parents, and educators should be proud of this improvement in the most critical measure of our education system – student achievement.”

Idaho’s overall ranking, 40<sup>th</sup> with a C- in the 2021 report, was 48<sup>th</sup> (D+) in 2016 and 2017, 45<sup>th</sup> (D+) in 2018 and 2019, and 43<sup>rd</sup> (C-) in 2020.

“The Ed Week Research Center ranked Idaho fifth nationwide in the amount of Chance for Success improvement between 2020 and 2021, and that’s great,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “Some of the

indicators, such as preschool and kindergarten enrollment, make it difficult for Idaho to rank well, since we are one of the few states with no state-funded preschool and no requirement that kindergarten be offered by all school districts.”

Ed Week describes the Chance for Success Index as “a cradle-to-grave perspective to examine the role of education in providing opportunities throughout the individual’s lifetime.” This year’s report, released in January, places Idaho 36<sup>th</sup> with a C+ among the 50 states and D.C., up from 39<sup>th</sup> and a C last year.

Idaho’s lowest Quality Counts rankings consistently come in the category of School Finance, where the latest report gives it a D and a ranking of 48<sup>th</sup> out of 51. That’s still an improvement over the past five years, which brought two Fs and three grades of D-, with a consistent ranking of 49<sup>th</sup>. School Finance scores are based on school expenditures, including per-pupil funding, and equity measures.

With a readership of more than 1.6 million, Education Week is described on its website as “America's most trusted resource for K-12 education news and information.”

###

