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Superintendent Ybarra improves transparency for education spending, other data

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra is partnering with State Controller Brandon Woolf to make the State Department of Education the third state agency to publish detailed financial records via Transparent.Idaho.gov.

In another major push for transparency, the superintendent has launched an [education-specific transparency portal on the SDE's website](#). The portal provides convenient access to the department's school report cards, budgetary and education workforce data, public records and other frequently requested information.

"Transparency is important for education because it informs the dialog about investing in our schools and attracting and retaining great teachers," Superintendent Ybarra said. "Transparency ensures education stakeholders are accountable for student progress."

Via Transparent.Idaho.gov, Superintendent Ybarra joins Secretary of State Lawrence Denney and State Controller Brandon Woolf in presenting vendor checkbook data for their agencies online. Transparent Idaho was launched by Woolf in 2013. Financial data for the agencies can be reviewed in reports or downloaded for analysis.

"I applaud Superintendent Ybarra's desire to increase transparency, as this is in line with my determinations to deliver easier access to the citizens' financial data across the state," said State Controller Brandon Woolf. "I am proud to partner with Superintendent Ybarra as she takes this great step and joins my vision of a more Transparent Idaho."

Improvements to Transparent Idaho are coming soon, Woolf said, providing easy access to data.

"I am pursuing furthering the incorporation of checkbook level spending across state government and voluntary local government reporting to ensure Idaho citizens can easily access their data," he said. "Having leaders like Superintendent Ybarra join me in these efforts is paramount to providing greater confidence to the citizens of Idaho."

The State Department of Education’s transparency portal also will be expanded to make more information available, Superintendent Ybarra said. Already, financial reports on the portal are updated daily.

“Education represents the single largest category of state spending,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “Citizens have a right to know how their tax dollars are spent to help schools prepare students for college and careers.”

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Links to sites: Reach the SDE’s portal at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/communications/transparency-portal.html> and the State Controller’s transparency site at <https://transparent.idaho.gov/Pages/transhome.aspx>