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Superintendent Ybarra wants to hear from Idahoans about school safety initiative

(BOISE) – Parents, students, educators and others are invited to weigh in on Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra’s proposed Keep Idaho Students Safe initiative via [an online survey](#).

A link to the survey is featured on [the Keep Idaho Students Safe page](#) of the State Department of Education’s website, along with details of the initiative’s key measures.

“We know what we want to do – help schools and districts keep their students safe through education, trained security presence and statewide resources to prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “But it’s essential to get feedback from schools, students and families to make sure their concerns and needs are represented.”

Stakeholder feedback will help finalize Keep Idaho Students Safe (KISS) plans before Superintendent Ybarra asks lawmakers in January for immediate funding via a supplemental budget request. That total request, estimated at \$20.8 million, would fund three major upgrades to Idaho’s school safety efforts:

- Security grant funding to help schools hire and train security personnel. Districts that already have school resource officers could apply to expand their SRO program or fund other security measures. Estimated cost \$18.67 million.
- A three-credit, 45-hour safety course required for teacher recertification and, later, for initial certification. It would focus on protecting students and addressing risk behaviors, including the suicide-prevention training called for in this year’s House Bill 634. Estimated cost \$1.99 million.
- A statewide crisis communications counselor, based at the SDE, to help school counselors and their districts prevent and prepare for crises, as well as help respond to emergencies. Estimated cost \$116,584, including operational funds.

The new efforts would complement existing school safety measures such as Superintendent Ybarra’s anti-bullying campaign, a suicide prevention program and the SDE’s annual Idaho Prevention and Support Conference.

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Site and survey web addresses: <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/kiss/index.html>

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KISSFeedback>