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## **New Idaho Mentoring Program to Provide Ongoing Support to Teachers**

(BOISE) – The Idaho Department of Education and the Idaho State Board of Education are rolling out a program and platform designed to provide selected first, second and third-year public school teachers with support and mentorship. The program aims to reduce teacher attrition rates and to increase student achievement in classrooms statewide.

Applications are now open. Those submitted by August 9 will receive first consideration.

Utilizing the Idaho Mentoring Program platform, selected mentees will be matched with mentors throughout the state. Priority will be given to applicants currently teaching in rural remote and rural distant local education agencies.

“The new platform provides educators access to high-quality mentors and professional development no matter where they live in Idaho,” State Board of Education President Dr. Linda Clark said. “I see this as a statewide investment that will help improve teacher performance and student achievement by creating a professional support network to help educators become their very best.”

Mentor and mentee matches will be made based on content area, grade level and specific mentee needs in correlation to mentor experience. Mentees will also receive professional development resources and mentoring within a cohort of teachers throughout the 2024 – 2025 school year.

Mentees are asked to commit to attending virtual trainings and orientation and to attend monthly individual check-in and cohort meetings. They will also get the opportunity to participate in professional pathways on the Trinity Education Group (TEG) platform.

“I hope that many of Idaho’s newer teachers will see this as an opportunity to develop and grow in a profession that has the potential to be so rewarding and impactful,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield. “We’ve heard our teachers, especially those new to the

profession, ask for support, and I'm pleased that we can offer teacher-to-teacher mentorship that can really make a difference for both teachers and students.”

Mentees can access the application form and request an administrator to complete the referral process here: <https://forms.office.com/r/rVkgvG12F5>. Applicants will be selected based on need, qualifications and NCES priority.

The Idaho State Board of Education and the Idaho Department of Education will also be working to provide additional resources through the platform, accessible to all Idaho public educators.

Please direct questions to Idaho Department of Education Mentorship Coordinator Summer Cook at [scook@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:scook@sde.idaho.gov) or 208-332-6949.

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