



PUBLIC NOTICE

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www.sde.idaho.gov

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SDE seeks public comment on ‘21st Century’ programs, alternate science test

Community Learning Centers

In response to the pandemic, the State Department of Education has submitted a waiver request to allow Idaho’s Nita M. Lowey 21st Century Community Learning Centers to provide supplemental services during school hours when students are not physically present in school but are participating in remote or independent learning caused by COVID-19.

The waiver would only apply to the 2020-21 school year and is made possible by the bipartisan 21st Century Community Learning Centers Coronavirus Relief Act, which was approved by Congress Sept. 16.

Any interested members of the public are invited to comment on the increased flexibility by contacting SDE program coordinator Sheena Strickler at sstrickler@sde.idaho.gov or by mail at 650 W. State St., Boise 83702. All comments must be received by 5 p.m. Sept. 28.

Alternate science assessment

Idaho is developing a new alternate assessment in Science. This assessment, for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities, is aligned with the new Extended Content Standards Core Content Connectors and grades for Science testing (5, 8, and 11) that the Idaho State Board of Education approved in October 2019.

The new assessment will replace the previous portfolio-based assessment, which does not meet the peer-review requirements in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Idaho will field-test the new alternate assessment in Science. Qualifying students in grades 5, 8, and 11 will participate in the new assessment. No students will participate in the legacy assessment.

The Idaho State Department of Education needs a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education to pursue this plan, and wants public feedback on the plan. This waiver would address the ESSA

requirements for testing students in Science at least once in various grade ranges, reporting results for all students and reporting results disaggregated for major racial and ethnic groups and student subgroups.

The Idaho State Department of Education wants your feedback on this plan. Public comments will be accepted from Monday, Sept. 21 until midnight MST on Oct. 9. Please submit your input using [this comment form](#).

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