



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, December 5, 2018

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

**Media Contacts:**

Scott Phillips

Stakeholder Communications Officer

208-332-6816

[sphillips@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:sphillips@sde.idaho.gov)

## **Superintendent Ybarra Briefs U.S. Senator Jim Risch in D.C. on Key Student Safety Initiative**

Washington, D.C. – Today, Idaho State Superintendent Sherri Ybarra briefed U.S. Senator Jim Risch about Idaho’s comprehensive student safety initiative, Keep Idaho Students Safe, KISS for short.

KISS represents a thorough response to the safety concerns raised by students, parents and educators by shoring up the security of public schools. It also addresses the root causes behind youth risk behaviors, such as bullying, suicide ideation, substance abuse and barriers to social-emotional wellness.

“As a former county prosecuting attorney and state legislator, Senator Risch has a wealth of experience and a great understanding of addressing risk behaviors in kids and developing effective, fiscally responsible public policies,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I appreciated that he listened to our plan and offered his advice for moving forward.”

Ybarra announced the launch of the KISS initiative in early 2018 and worked with education stakeholders, including parents, teachers, students, law enforcement and others, to develop the plan. She’ll present KISS to the Idaho Legislature in January and, if funding is approved, will begin implementing the \$20 million student safety program immediately.

In addition to meeting with Senator Risch, Ybarra traveled to Washington, D.C., to represent Idaho at the National Summit on Education Reform.

“Events like the National Summit present an incredible opportunity for Idaho to learn about the best practices in early childhood education and the social-emotional health of students, and bring this information back home where we can use it to improve our education system,” Ybarra said.

###