

Idaho State Department of Education

Weekly Update 04/05/2021



State Department of Education Weekly Update: April 5, 2021

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Superintendent Ybarra's Update

Superintendent Ybarra's In-Person Learning Bill

[Superintendent Ybarra's in-person learning bill](#) passed the Senate Education Committee and is now pending action in the full Senate. Please review the bill and let your legislators know that you support the bill and urge them to vote in favor. It will be a win for Idaho students and schools.

ESSER II and K-12 Public Schools Budget Webinar

The SDE will hold a webinar on April 7 at 12:00pm MST to provide an update on ESSER II and the current status of the K-12 public schools budget. [Please click this link at the time of the webinar to join.](#)

Hand Sanitizer Available

Hand Sanitizer has been donated to The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and is available for distribution. The U.S. Department of Education is assisting FEMA with communicating this opportunity to schools across the country. Please view the forms below or contact FEMA-Donations-Mgt@fema.dhs.gov with questions.

[Hand Sanitizer Donation Offer Information](#)

[WM Hold Harmless Agreement](#)

[WM Request Template](#)

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2021-2022 Administrator and Certified Personnel Contract Templates

Templates for the 2021-2022 Administrator and Certified Personnel Contracts are posted on the [Admin/Certified Personnel Contracts](#) webpage. The only revisions were related to formatting and capitalization. Contact Michelle Clement Taylor (mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov or 208-332-6963) with any questions about the templates.

ESSER Funds Allocations and Availability

The Superintendent and her staff are working with the U.S. Department of Education and with Idaho's Legislative Services Office regarding the availability of ESSER-II and ESSER-III funds. Staff have communicated that districts and charters were expecting to have access to their full allocation of ESSER-II funds through a supplemental appropriation this fiscal year, and you have known what your estimated allocation will be for many weeks. We know that many districts and charters were waiting to see what actions the Legislature would take before drawing down their ESSER-I funds and making plans for ESSER-II based on the proposed reduction in discretionary funding.

The Superintendent's staff provided FY 2021 support units as of the February 15 payment and ESSER I and ESSER II allocations to Legislative Services Staff. However, the discretionary funding reduction by school district and charter school was calculated by Legislative Services.

ESSER-II Funds Survey

The SDE sent a survey to all superintendents and business managers regarding ESSER-II funding. If you haven't already, please [fill out this survey](#) to help the SDE further understand your funding needs and challenges for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Master Educator Premiums Distributed

Master Educator Premium payments per 33-1004I, Idaho Code, are being distributed this week. Payment includes \$4,000 per current Instructional and Pupil Service staff approved by the State Board of Education, and 19.59% (\$783.60 per FTE) for employer obligations to PERSI and FICA. Contact Branwyn Phillips with any questions at 208-332-6875 or BCPhillips@sde.idaho.gov.

Superintendent Ybarra Requests Recommendations for "Talent Pool"

The superintendent maintains a file of emerging classroom leaders that consists of a cadre of distinguished teachers and principals. These educators may be considered for membership on advisory boards and task forces, as well as candidates for special recognition programs. Your recommendations will identify educators who will be of great value to your community and state and who may also ultimately receive recognition for their contributions and achievements. [Please provide CONFIDENTIAL, succinct and specific information for a candidate using this form.](#) All questions must be answered. Please include a one-page narrative with this form that addresses how the candidate meets the criteria mentioned in this letter and also a resume from their personal file. We ask that you keep this recommendation confidential and do not share it with the individual or collaborate with a colleague to complete. **All forms must be submitted by Friday, April 30, 2021.**

Don't Forget to Nominate a Teacher for the 2022 Idaho Teacher of the Year Award

Don't forget to nominate your favorite teacher for the 2022 Idaho Teacher of the Year Award! **All nominations are due by today, April 5th, 2021.** The Idaho Teacher of the Year is chosen by a selection committee representing state education leaders and lawmakers. The Idaho Teacher of the Year serves as Idaho's nominee for the National Teacher of the Year program, a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers. [Nominate a teacher here.](#)

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COVID-19 Updates

Karli Bennett, Project and Communications Specialist

kbennett@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6812

All Idahoans Over the Age of 16 Are Eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine Starting April 5th

Governor Little announced that the state will open up COVID-19 vaccine appointments to all Idahoans over age 16 starting April 5th. There will be no prioritization of any group of people. All Idahoans over the age of 16, regardless of their age, medical condition, or occupation, will be able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. [Please visit this link for the entire list of eligible groups.](#)

Department of Health and Welfare Vaccine Newsletter and Media Briefing – March 12

DHW publishes a bi-weekly COVID-19 newsletter, a briefing on the department's latest news, communications activities, and resources for the pandemic. They also regularly publish media briefings. [Find the latest newsletter here](#) and the [latest media briefing here.](#)

Certification

Lisa Colón Durham, Director

lcolondurham@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6886

It's Time to RENEW Your CERTIFICATES

District/charter school staff, it is time to remind your certified staff to check their certificates! Teachers, administrators and pupil service staff that have certificates that expire 08/31/2021, now is the time to apply for your renewal. There are two options:

- [Hardcopy application](#) and attach your transcripts. If you must send your transcripts separately from your application please email them to transcripts@sde.idaho.gov. Official transcripts are not required for renewal applications.
- [Apply online](#) and email your transcripts to transcripts@sde.idaho.gov.

Advanced Professional Endorsements Issued!

The Certification Department is proud to announce that the Advanced Professional Endorsements that have been received by March 19, 2021 will be issued no later than March 26, 2021. You can use the [Certification Lookup Tool](#) or the ISEE Edit Report titled "All Personnel Employment Info – V6" to view the staff that has been issued the Advanced Professional Endorsement. Thank you to all of you for providing the spreadsheets and recommendation forms so that we can get these issued in record time! If you have questions, or have additional people that you think have met the requirements, please contact Lisa Colon Durham at lcolondurham@sde.idaho.gov.

Child Nutrition

Colleen Fillmore, Director

cfillmore@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6823

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Idaho P-EBT

The SDE is happy to announce that USDA has approved Idaho to operate a School Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program during SY 2020-2021. [The approved plan can be found here.](#)

P-EBT is part of the U.S. government response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (PL 116-127), as amended by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act (PL 116-159), provides the Secretary of Agriculture authority to approve state agency plans to administer P-EBT. The Child Nutrition Program (CNP) is currently collecting calendars and determining eligibility and benefit amounts for the students in Idaho. [The Idaho State Department of Education, School P-EBT website can be found here.](#)

USDA CNP Extensions of Waivers Flexibilities

The State agency would like to announce extensions of waiver flexibilities for summer 2021 operations for the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and the NSLP Seamless Summer Option (SSO). FNS is issuing the following updated waivers specifically for summer meal program operations in 2021. Please note that the current waivers are in effect through June 30, 2021 and that the waivers listed below are effective beginning July 1, 2021 and go through September 30, 2021:

These waiver extensions include:

- **SSO Meal Pattern Flexibility (#74)** – this helps schools unable to meet meal pattern requirements due to supply chain challenges. Does not extend meal pattern flexibility for SFSP sponsors.
- **Non-Congregate (#75)** – allows meals to be taken and eaten off-site.
- **Parent or Guardian Meal Pick-Up (#76)** – allows meals to be served without a child present.
- **Area Eligibility (#77)** – allows for meal distribution and delivery in areas of need that may not meet the usual 50 percent free or reduced-price eligibility threshold with existing data.
- **Meal Service Times (#78)** – allows for multiple meals to be served at the same time.
- **Using OVS in SFSP (#79)** – allows non-SFA SFSP operators to operate under OVS.
- **Area Eligibility for Closed Sites (#80)** – allows for meal distribution and delivery to groups of children that do not meet the usual 50 percent free or reduced-price eligibility threshold with existing data.
- **SFSP First Week Site Visit (#81)** – allows sites that successfully operated CACFP and NSLP to opt to not to conduct a first week site visit.

The State agency will issue additional guidance regarding any steps needed to operate under these waiver extensions in a future email.

Emergency Operational Costs for CNP

On January 26, 2021, the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) published implementation guidance for the CNP Emergency Operational Costs Programs, as authorized in Sec. 722 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (P.L. 116-260). Under this authority, FNS is offering additional funds to State agencies administering the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), School Breakfast Program (SBP), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to provide eligible program operators with additional reimbursements for emergency operating costs they incurred during the public health emergency. If your school district is eligible for these monies per USDA regulations you will be notified. More information will be coming.

Federal Programs

Karen Seay, Director

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208-332-6978

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American Rescue Plan

[Visit this link](#) for information on the American Rescue Plan, including preliminary ESSER III allocations to eligible LEAs. Contact Karen Seay, kseay@sde.idaho.gov or Alexandra McCann, amccann@sde.idaho.gov with questions.

Capital Expenditure Request Form

LEAs using ESSER funds for a capital expense, must receive prior written approval from the SDE (2 CFR § 200.439). The Capital Expenditure Request Form is available [here](#).

School Choice

Michelle Clement Taylor, Coordinator
mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov
208-332-6963

Alternative School Applications

Applications for the 2021 Summer School and the 2021-22 Regular School year Alternative Schools/Programs are posted on the [Alternative School Webpage](#). The Summer School Applications are due April 15, 2021 and the Regular School Applications are due June 15, 2021. Applications must be submitted and approved before the start of summer school and the regular school year. Contact Michelle Clement Taylor (mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov or 208-332-6963) with any questions about the applications or requirements.

Student Engagement

Eric Studebaker, Director
estudebaker@sde.idaho.gov
208-332-6961

Center to Improve Social and Emotional Learning and School Safety Resources

The Center to Improve Social and Emotional Learning and School Safety at WestEd has compiled resources to support states, districts, and schools as they serve students throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The Center has also compiled resources to support schools in advancing racial justice and creating more equitable systems. To learn more, [visit this link](#).

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to be delivered to adults who work with youth or have youth in their homes. Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to assess a person for signs of suicide thoughts or other mental health conditions. It teaches you how to listen nonjudgmentally and how to help people connect with proper resources in their community to find help. Youth Mental Health First Aid is offered virtually. It is a six-hour class consisting of two hours of self-guided study with four hours of an interactive zoom call. There are five different class dates and times to choose from. Please [visit this link](#), scroll down to Events & Training, and then click the dropdown for Youth Mental Health First Aid for more information and to register.

Odds and Ends

If you would like to include information in Odds and Ends, please send it to Karli Bennett Kbennett@sde.idaho.gov

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The Pathways Project Free Webinar

The Pathways Project, an initiative from the Boise State Department of World Languages, is a free, collaborative repository of open educational resources (OER) including classroom activities across 10 different languages. The Pathways Project is hosting a free webinar on April 9th from 4-4:30MT. In thirty minutes, you'll learn how to find the right activities and resources for your classroom so you can begin using them immediately. [Please register ahead of time at this link.](#)

Idaho Art Education Association Spring Conference

Visual Voices: Teaching Through Challenge & Change will focus on giving educators the resources and tools to develop visual art lessons that provide safe, respectful ways for students to engage with ideas of social justice, equity, inclusion and change. This year's conference will take place on Saturday, May 1st 2021 from 9:00am-5:00pm. The conference will feature educators and artists whose work inspires change in our community. Educators can earn one professional development credit from Boise State. [Learn more and register here.](#)

Month of the Military Child

April is the month of the military child. The Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission (MIC3) will be showing their support on April 21st by wearing purple. Purple symbolizes all branches of the military. To learn more information and to find resources please [visit this link](#) and make sure to use the hashtags [#MIC3Compact](#) and [#purpleup4militarykids](#) when posting on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

SDE Weekly updates now available online

Current and past weekly updates are available on our website. [Visit the weekly update page.](#) You can also [subscribe to receive our weekly update](#) directly in your inbox.