

Idaho State Department of Education

Weekly Update 05/17/2021



Superintendent of Public Instruction Weekly Update – May 17, 2021

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Superintendent Ybarra's Update

Two Idaho High School Seniors Honored as 2021 Presidential Scholars

Outstanding students from Moscow and Nampa have been named U.S. Presidential Scholars for 2021, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra announced on Thursday, May 13th.

"Congratulations to Jaston B. McClure of Moscow High School and Katherine E. Hebdon of Skyview High, who have been selected among 161 high school seniors nationwide for the 57th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars," Superintendent Ybarra said. "I'm proud to have these outstanding young Idahoans representing their schools, their communities and our state on the national stage."

The [White House Commission on Presidential Scholars](#) selects high school seniors each year based on their academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership and demonstrated commitment to high ideals. Created in 1964, the U.S. Presidential Scholars Program has honored more than 7,600 of the nation's top-performing students.

[View the full press release here.](#)

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Idaho Students Can Get Free Online Tutoring via New Partnership

The Superintendent of Public Instruction's Office is partnering with a new online platform called Schoolhouse.world to provide free, small-group tutoring in mathematics for Idaho middle and high school students who want to catch up on their learning and get ready for what's next.

[View the announcement from Superintendent Ybarra here.](#)

Idaho students can choose from a wide range of math topics and may even suggest future tutoring sessions to meet their needs. The interactive small-group sessions are offered live via Zoom. To learn more about Schoolhouse.world, go to the [SDE website](#) and click on Free Tutoring.

Superintendent Ybarra's Student Advisory Council

Superintendent Ybarra is excited to announce a new Student Advisory Council. We are looking for students in grades 3-12 to serve as members on the Student Advisory Council. The purpose of this council is to provide a space for Idaho students' voices to be heard. Students from different grade levels, backgrounds, cultures, school size, and areas within Idaho will share their opinions and offer advice about educational opportunities and policy in Idaho. Applications close on Monday, June 25th. We encourage you to share this information with your schools and families. [To learn more and to apply, please visit this link.](#)

2021 Post Legislative Roadshow

Thank you to everyone who registered to attend the 2021 Post Legislative Roadshow. The agenda will include this year's legislative actions, budget information for this year and next year, an update on federal funds (ESSER and P-EBT), **and new resources to address learning loss.**

Meetings will be held from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be served.

May 10: Region 3 – Galaxy Event Center Meridian

May 13: Region 2 – Best Western Plus University Inn Moscow

May 14: Region 1 – Best Western Plus Coeur d'Alene Inn

May 19: Region 4 – Canyon Crest Event Center Twin Falls

May 20: Region 5 & 6 – The Waterfront at Snake River Landing, Idaho Falls

The Region 3 meeting on May 10th will be recorded. As soon as an accessible version of the recording has been created to meet ADA requirements, we will make that recording available.

Please reach out to Karli Bennett at kbennett@sde.idaho.gov if you have any questions.

COVID-19 Updates

Karli Bennett, Project and Communications Specialist

kbennett@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6812

New! CDC Guidance Once Fully Vaccinated

The CDC released new guidance on May 13, 2021 regarding [fully vaccinated individuals](#). Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. [View the full guidance here.](#)

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Idaho COVID-19 Vaccine Statistics (as of May 13, 2021)

- 628,334 people have received the vaccine
- 79,438 people have received one dose of a two-dose series
- 548,896 people are fully vaccinated
- 1,141,083 total doses have been administered (this may include doses reported without an indication of 1st or 2nd dose)

Department of Health and Welfare Vaccine Newsletter and Media Briefing – April 30

DHW publishes a bi-weekly COVID-19 newsletter, which is 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
lcoldurham@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 August 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. **NEW PROCESS:** A complete renewal application will ensure the certificate will be mailed within 2-3 weeks of the cleared check. All required documents, including transcripts, must be included for an application to be considered complete.
- [Apply online](#) and email your transcripts to transcripts@sde.idaho.gov.

Child Nutrition

Colleen Fillmore, Director
crfillmore@sde.idaho.gov
208-332-6823

Idaho P-EBT

The State Department of Education is happy to announce that JFAC, House, and Senate have approved spending authority for the *Idaho School P-EBT* program. We are waiting for the next steps of approval before moving forward.

USDA has approved Idaho's submitted **plan** to operate a School Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program during SY 2020-2021. [The approved plan can be found here](#).

Even though the plan has been approved by USDA, the State Department of Education is still waiting for approval from USDA for the submitted budget. The Child Nutrition Program (CNP) is sending emails this week to all SFAs that do and do not qualify for this program.

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USDA CNP Waivers and Flexibilities in School Year 2021-2022

USDA has announced a new suite of Child Nutrition Program nationwide waivers and flexibilities to support a successful school reopening in school year 2021-2022. These waivers and flexibilities increase funding, support access, and balance operational needs with the goal of providing nutritious meals.

A list of the waivers can be seen below.

- Nationwide Waiver to Allow the Seamless Summer Option through School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Summer Food Service Program Reimbursement Rates in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Non-Congregate Meal Service for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Meal Time Requirements for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Parents and Guardians to Pick Up Meals for Children for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific School Meal Pattern Flexibility for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Specific Meal Pattern Flexibility in the Child and Adult Care Food Program for School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver to Allow Offer Versus Serve Flexibility for Senior High Schools in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Area Eligibility in the Afterschool Programs and for Family Day Care Home Providers in School Year 2021-2022
- Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements in the School Meals Programs – Revised – EXTENSION 3
- Nationwide Waiver of Onsite Monitoring Requirements for State Agencies in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – EXTENSION 3
- Nationwide Waiver of Monitoring Requirements for Sponsors in the Child and Adult Care Food Program – EXTENSION

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.

Content & Curriculum

Todd Driver, Director

tdriver@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6876

Governor's K-4 / K-12 Learning Loss Grant Funds

Please find the application to apply for the Governor's K-4 / K-12 Learning Loss grant funds on the [Content and Curriculum webpage](#). Estimated allocations for your district for each grant are also available on that web page. Please note these are minimum estimates and may change based on how many schools choose to apply for the funds. Please contact Todd Driver at tdriver@sde.idaho.gov if you have any questions.

Federal Programs

Karen Seay, Director

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kseay@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6978

Save the Date: 6th Annual Family and Community Engagement Conference

The 6th annual Family and Community Engagement Conference will take place on October 25th and 26th at the Boise Centre. This year, the special guest will be Rudy Ruettiger. More details and speakers will be announced soon.

School Choice

Michelle Clement Taylor, Coordinator

mtaylor@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6963

Alternative School Applications

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

Special Education

Charlie Silva, Director

csilva@sde.idaho.gov

208-332-6896

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) IDEA Part B Supplemental Funds

In an effort to provide estimates to LEAs for budgeting and appropriating funds for FY2021-2022, the SDE has applied the most likely known method to calculate LEA allocations of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) IDEA Part B *Supplemental funds*. The Idaho State Department of Education has not yet received guidance from OSEP on the final method to allocate funds, spending timelines, allowable costs guidance, our State Grant Award Notification, or final State Allocations. The SDE has calculated estimates based on available past resources and methods of a supplemental grant award; however, it is subject to change.

The **ARPA FY 2021-2022 Preliminary Estimate of IDEA Part B and Preschool Allocations** for school districts and charter school LEAs are complete. For your convenience, an email with a spreadsheet attached outlining your allocation has been emailed to you and is also posted on the [SDE website under Fiscal/IDEA Allocations](#). When you open the Excel file, please note that there are two tabs located at the bottom of the spreadsheet, one for School Age allocations and the other one for Preschool. The allocations are still listed as **ESTIMATED** and will remain so until we receive the state award letter from the U.S. Department of Education.

The ARPA IDEA Part B funds should be set up as a separate fund 259 for tracking purposes. There will be separate budget and expenditure reporting required, a separate GRA grant allocation, and award notification.

With *Supplemental funding*, the Base Allocation is not applicable in the funding formula, and there are no Ed Plan or IEP software allocations calculated.

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As a reminder, due to the USDA School Lunch waiver in place for FY2020-2021, free and reduced lunch (FRL) application data was not collected for the 2020-2021 school year. As this data was not collected and is not available, the Idaho State Department of Education followed the SEA and LEA guidance allowed and used the best available data, which is the data already provided for the 2019-2020 school year. Therefore, you will notice the enrollment and low-income calculations in your IDEA Part B Allocations references the FY2019-20 data.

If you have any questions regarding the preliminary allocations, please contact Lisa Pofelski-Rosa at lpofelskirosa@sde.idaho.gov or by phone at 208-332-6916.

Odds and Ends

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

School Libraries May Apply for ARPA Funding

Idaho's school libraries may apply with the Idaho Commission for Libraries to receive grant funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The grant application is open until June 15, 2021.

One of the primary focuses of the grant is to keep students learning, and there are wide variety of ways the funding may be used to achieve the goals of the grant. Some options include: for the purchase of hotspots for check out to students; for the purchase of books and online content; to provide online and after-school tutoring; for the purchase of video conferencing software and equipment; and for virtual programming kits.

There could be many approved uses for this ARPA funding, so school libraries are encouraged to apply. [Learn more about the Libraries Keep Students Learning and Adults Earning/ARPA Grant here](#). The webpage includes grant eligibility information, allowable expenditures, the grant timeline, contact information, and more.

Idaho Students Can Now Register for Idaho Codes

Idaho students in grades 7-12 may now register for Idaho Codes! Thanks to donations from community partners, students who register will get their fees waived! [Learn more.](#)

Idaho Codes, a computer science program from the Idaho STEM Action Center, teaches students the foundational skills of building websites and developing apps with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. The summer program will offer students the opportunity to learn web development at both online and in-person camps.

In-person campus sites will be housed at the state's four community colleges — College of Eastern Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, College of Southern Idaho, and North Idaho College — and a couple other locations. Camp capacity is limited with some locations only having 30 seats available, so register quickly!

Idaho Student Photo Contest Winners Announced

Congratulations to the 2021 Arbor Day Student Photo Contest Winners! To celebrate Arbor Day, each year the Idaho Forest Products Commission sponsors the *Look to the Forest* Photo Contest. Idaho 5th-12th grade students from throughout the state submitted their photos, captions and photographers' statements. [View the winners here.](#)

Family First Listening Session

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare is ready to conduct listening sessions for educators. The listening sessions will be conducted by Katrina Day via a recorded WebEx and will be approximately 90 minutes in length. The information shared during this interview is confidential and responses will be de-identified. These sessions seek to further understand the needs of families in your community and how to best meet these identified needs. The focus will be on

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three different groups; families that are at risk of entering the child welfare system, families of children and youth currently in foster care and families finalizing permanency for youth that are not being reunited with their birth family. Inquiry in each of these areas will include availability of services, barriers in accessing services, gaps in services, efficacy of services, evidence-based services available and the most pressing needs of families in your area. Your responses are extremely important as future decisions will be made based on the information you share. Data from this assessment will inform service improvement as well as development of new services in Idaho.

The listening sessions for educators are scheduled for Friday, May 7 at 4pm MST and Wednesday, May 26 at 5pm MST. If you are interested in participating, please RSVP to Katrina Day at Katrina.Day1@dhw.idaho.gov. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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.