



Idaho Department  
of Education

# Grants Communities of Practice

Leading with courage, strategy, and  
confidence!



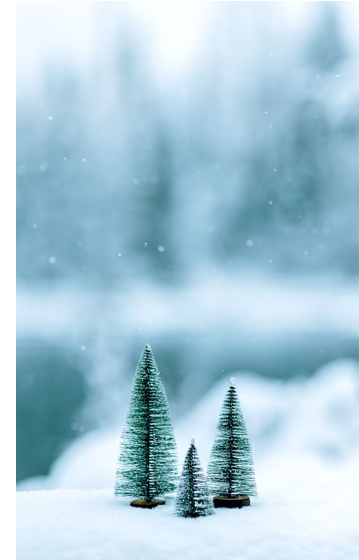
# Agenda January 2026

- Congratulations, Celebrations, and Shout-Outs
- Recapping December's Allowability Presentation
- What's on your radar? Data Acquisition Calendar
- Housekeeping: Upcoming Grant Opportunities
- Hot Topics, News, and Legislation: State Budget updates
- PD in 30: Session Survival Tips



# Celebrations & Shout-Outs

- Welcome Alejandra Castaneda to Federal Programs as Title I-A Specialist and Valeria Pantoja to Federal programs as the EL/Migrant/MV Program Specialist.
- Madison School District's Randy Lords named top Idaho Superintendent 2026!
- Full Service Community Schools were reinstated!



# Recapping Allowability



# Expense Reimbursement

The GRA is where you're reimbursed for the costs of building, maintaining, and running your programs.

The GRA is one last check that what you've purchased is allowable.

**Everything claimed in the GRA must be in your approved CFSGA**

# Paint us a picture in the GRA/ CFSGA





# Universally Unallowable costs

- “The cost of alcoholic beverages is unallowable” - 2 CFR 200.423
- Bad Debts – 2 CFR 200.426
- Goods or services for personal use – 2 CFR 200.445
- Lobbying – 2 CFR 200.450
- Review section 8526 of ESEA to see other fun examples!

Other items are not universally unallowable, but are generally very difficult to demonstrate allowability

# So why was it unallowable?

If the cost item was named as unallowable in the CFSGA, Program Coordinators have insufficient information to demonstrate that something is:

- Necessary;
- Reasonable;
- Allocable; and
- Supplemental.

If the cost item was named as unallowable in the GRA, then the GRA reviewers have insufficient information to:

- Identify the cost item in an approved CFSGA; or
- Certify that the cost itself is allowable based on the above standards.

# Key Takeaways

The only information available to GRA or CFSGA reviewers is what you give us.

What you write serves as a standalone record for review in the future, and IDE staff are required to defend what happened to our auditors and USED without you to help us.

If we pay out something that shouldn't have been allowed, the LEA or the IDE may be forced to pay back any funds associated with the expense.

Therefore, if the information in front of us is vague, we're going to return the item for more clarification before we approve it.

Paint us a picture!



# What's on Your Radar?



# Data Acquisition Calendar January 2026

DUE DATE	TITLE	APPLIES TO	REQUIRED BY	DETAIL	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT 1	CONTACT 2
01/15/26	Border Contract Expense Report	Districts Only	State Law IC 33-1002	District submission of any adjustments to border contract costs for the current school year in preparation of the February Foundation payment.	Public School Finance	Amber Worthington (208)332-3829 Financial Specialist	
01/15/26	Title I-A, Application for Reallocated Funds (if available)	Districts & Charters	Federal Law PL 107-110	Districts apply for the additional funds annually.	Federal Programs	Austin Kohout (208) 332-6900 Financial Specialist	
01/17/26	General Supervision File Review (GSFR)	Districts & Charters	34 CFR Sec. 300.149, 34 CFR Sec. 300.600-602	For the students selected for GSFR, this is the last day to submit the required checklists and student files to the CTT. NOTE: LEAs that opted to have files reviewed on their EDPlan platform only need to complete the checklists for the student selected. They are not required to upload files.	Special Education		
01/26/26	Final Application and Budgets IDEA Part B and Preschool Funds for New Charter School	Charters Only	Federal Regulations 34 CFR 300, 200-300.204	Required for eligibility for IDEA Part B and Preschool funds.	Special Education	Lisa Pofelski-Rosa (208) 332-6916 Financial Specialist, Principal	Sharie Monteferrante (208) 332-6910 Contracts & Financial Specialist
01/31/26	ISEE - Financial Transparency Jan FY26 (July 1, 2025 - December 31, 2025))	Districts & Charters	State Law IC 33-357	Second submission of cumulative financial expenditure and revenue transaction data for FY2026. Uploaded and certified via the State Reporting Manager (SRM). Used for Idaho State Transparency purposes	State Board of Education	Todd King (208) 332-6937 Education Data Systems Reporting Manager	Chris Campbell (208) 332-6970 Chief Technology Officer
01/31/26	Indicator 8 Parent Involvement Survey Contact Information	Districts & Charters	Federal Regulations 20 U.S.C. 1416(a)(3)(A)	Last day to submit contact information for Parent Involvement (Indicator 8) survey.	Special Education		



# Data Acquisition Calendar February 2026

DUE DATE	TITLE	APPLIES TO	REQUIRED BY	DETAIL	DEPARTMENT	CONTACT 1
02/01/26	Migrant Student Information System (MSIS) Data Reporting; Instructional Services, Supportive Services, Priority for Services and Continuation of Services	Districts & Charters	Federal Law ESSA	Required for Federal Reporting/Accountability/IC sub-allocation determination; Districts complete quarterly data verification in MSIS with Regional MEP Coordinator.	Federal Programs	Roberto Trinidad (208) 332-6958 Coordinator
02/02/26	SFA Onsite Review	Districts & Charters	Federal Regulations 7 CFR 210	Each sponsor of multiple sites must complete a self-review of the breakfast and lunch programs and keep the results on file. Reviews with Corrective Action require follow up; keep on file for review by Idaho Department of Education. Form is available in Idaho School Nutrition Reference Guide on CNP website.	Child Nutrition	NSLP Team (208) 332-6820
02/03/26	General Supervision File Review (GSFR)	Districts & Charters	34 CFR Sec. 300.149, 34 CFR Sec. 300.600-602	GSFR- Final deadline for uploading pre-existing documentation to clear an identified compliance concern. reported in through the CTT.	Special Education	
02/13/26	Independent Review of Applications	Districts & Charters	Federal Regulations 7 CFR 210	SFAs demonstrating high levels of, or are at risk for, administrative error are required to conduct a review of F/R application determination prior to notifying households of eligibility or ineligibility. Complete if notified of requirement	Child Nutrition	Melissa Cook (208) 332-6830 Financial Specialist
02/14/26	General Supervision File Review (GSFR) Compliance Notifications	Districts & Charters	34 CFR Sec. 300.149, 34 CFR Sec. 300.600-602	Official notifications of noncompliance issued to LEAs for any areas of noncompliance identified through GSFR.	Special Education	
02/15/26	Charter School Facilities Forms	Charters Only	State Law IC 33-5207(6)	Charters must submit a summary of eligible students and/or reimbursable facilities expenditures to verify eligibility for payment.	Public School Finance	Andrew Konopacky (208) 332-6846 Financial Specialist, Sr.

# Housekeeping

# Upcoming Opportunities

- INL STEM Education Grant for K-12 education programs, various grant award amounts – **apply by February 16th [here](#)**.
- Learning Blade resource grant for National Engineering Week **February 22nd-28th [here](#)**.
- Clean Water Education Grant from the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association (PNCWA), each project can receive \$500 **January 30th Register [here](#)**.
- Professional Development through Summer Externship Program for Grades 6 - 12 Educators with the Idaho STEM Action Center **Register [here](#)**.

# Upcoming Required Training – Summer Meals Program (SUN)

## Who must attend:

- Returning SFSP sponsors and any eligible school districts interested in operating SUN Programs
- Eligible districts interested in operating Rural Non-Congregate service (SUN Meals-To-Go) must also attend a SUN Meals-To-Go training in addition to the annual training.

## Times and Locations:

- Northern Idaho | Coeur d'Alene
  - **February 13** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. PST
- Eastern Idaho | Pocatello: The Gallery at Pocatello SD
  - **February 19** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. MT
- Southwest Idaho: | Meridian: Dairy West
  - **February 24** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. MT
- The annual SUN Meals-To-Go training will be conducted virtually via Zoom:
  - **March 13** | 8 a.m. – noon M
  - **March 20** | noon – 4 p.m. MT

# Special Education – Fiscal Monitoring Notifications

LEAs will be notified this month if they were selected for fiscal monitoring of the IDEA Part B federal grant funding.

The Idaho Department of Education (IDE) is the prime recipient of IDEA Part B grant awards under both the Special Education – Grants to States Program and the Special Education – Preschool Grants Program.

The Special Education team is responsible for administering those grants. That administrative responsibility includes the general supervision requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), as well as program and fiscal monitoring of sub- recipients required by federal statutes and regulations.

LEAS must be monitored within a five-year grant cycle review.

# IDEA Part B Fiscal Monitoring Review

Review consists of, but is not limited, to:

- Review sub-award letters, contracts, files, documents, and related correspondence;
- Review applicable Federal and State Regulations;
- Review budget or expenditure reports through the Grant Reimbursement Application GRA;
- Review audits reports as necessary;
- Review prior monitoring reports;
- Review sub-recipients' equipment inventory and identify equipment/property that needs inspection (if any)
- Review of written, board-approved, fiscal policies and procedures
- Review of documentation of specific areas of concern, such as use of funds set aside for CEIS or the provision of Services to Parentally-placed Private School Children (where applicable.)

# Detailed Monitoring Review

- Fiscal and program records for compliance with IDEA Part B and Preschool requirements, generally accepted accounting principles and internal control best practices.
- Review pay records (timecards/sheets) and attendance reports to ensure compliance with time and effort requirements
- Review of employment contracts/agreements between LEAs and personnel paid with IDEA Part B funds to ensure that services to students with disabilities are being provided and payments are appropriate. Contracts shall be reviewed for dates, authorized signatures, amount paid, and supporting documents to justify payment.
- Review staffing levels, operating procedures, and contracts
- Review sub-recipients records on expenditures of IDEA Part B funds and supporting documents.
- Review of written, board-approved, fiscal policies and procedures

# IDEA Part B Fiscal Monitoring – Procurement & Financial Management

- **Procurement Practices**

- Adherence to contract requirements and instruction for purchases
- Documentation of contract awards
- Procedures for prevention of conflict of interest
- Political Activities Prohibited
- Property Management

- **Financial Management**

- Standards for financial management systems.
- Fiscal controls and accountability.
- Record retention.
- Allowability of costs
- Fiscal Records such as cash receipts journal, cash disbursement, payroll journal, general ledger, bank reconciliation, accounts payable, purchase orders, cost allocation plan

# Hot Topics, News, and Legislation

Rob Sepich,  
Budget Director

# FY 26 Governor's Recommended Budget

Current Year Budget Recommendation includes:

- **-\$22.4** million General Fund to align with actual attendance, which is expected to be flat
  - Support Units were projected to increase over FY 2025 levels, but have not
  - Reduced 232 Support Units to reflect current enrollment levels
- \$7.8 million in appropriation to spend federal funds.
- Both line items recommended for FY 27 as well.

# FY 27 Governor's Recommended Budget Items

Line Item – Department Budget	Amount
<p><b>Driver Education Reimbursements</b></p> <p>The Department currently reimburses less than half of the costs to run driver education programs statewide. Currently LEAs are using Advanced Opportunities Program funds to cover a portion of these costs; however, that reduces the amount available for college credit or workforce development opportunities. Policy legislation is required to make this change.</p>	<p>\$1,770,900 dedicated fund spending authority (Driver Training Fund)</p> <p>\$1,270,900 ongoing passthrough payments to increase reimbursements from \$150 to \$300 per student.</p> <p>\$500,000 for roughly 20 driver education vehicle grants to help LEAs purchase or replace vehicles to help make driver education programs available in more districts and charter schools.</p>

# FY 27 Governor's Recommended Budget Items 2

Line Item	Amount
<p><b>Health Insurance Cost Increases</b></p> <p>Creates a two-part approach to health insurance costs – one for those on the State Plan, and one for those who have their own plans.</p> <p>On the State Plan: \$16,170 for full-time employees and \$12,940 for part-time employees, representing a 14.4% increase from FY 2026.</p> <p>On own plan: 10.83% increase over the prior year appropriation based on Health Insurance Survey.</p>	<p><b>\$38.99 million decrease</b></p> <p>Governor used the Health Insurance Plan Survey, as directed by Section 11 of H251 (2025), to find average increase in costs per LEA.</p> <p>Down from original estimate of \$17,770 for full-time employees.</p>

# FY 27 Governor's Recommended Budget Items 3

Line Item	Amount
<p>Special Education - High Needs Student Fund</p> <p>Creates a fund to help address costs associated with students with disabilities that create significant budget gaps for LEAs.</p> <p>Policy bill is in progress.</p>	<p>\$5 million in existing funding</p> <p>Funding would be distributed to districts and charters that document high costs that cannot be reimbursed from other funding sources.</p> <p>Provides a mechanism to report high costs for special need students and assess impacts on LEAs.</p> <p>Uses interest earnings in Idaho Career Ready Students Fund and cash balance in Driver Training Account.</p>

# FY 27 Governor's Recommended Budget Items 4

Line Item	Amount
<p><b>Special Education – Regional Shared Services</b></p> <p>Provide targeted support to LEAs, particularly small and rural districts and charters, for needs that are cost-prohibitive or impractical for a single LEA to deliver independently. Focus on special education services, including speech-language pathology, occupational therapy, and school psychology. LEAs often compete for a limited pool of qualified special education professionals, and many districts do not require full-time staff to meet their students’ needs.</p> <p>Policy bill is in process.</p>	<p><b>\$1 million in existing funding</b></p> <p>Funding would cover start-up staffing costs and provide a financial incentive to LEAs to pool resources and participate in the regional model, resulting in a more efficient use of funds and expanded access to critical services</p> <p>Uses cash balance in Driver Training Account.</p>

# FY 27 Governor's Recommended Budget Items 5

Line Item	Amount
<p><b>Budget Flexibility</b>            Maximizes the current appropriation by adjusting budgetary language to increase flexibility in how local school boards spend dollars to support the education of their students.</p> <p>Distributes English Language Learner funding directly to LEAs for more local control rather than the state providing those services.</p>	<p><b>\$0</b>            Language added to some special distributions stating that if the distribution provided is met and the individual school district or charter school's actual costs are satisfied, the remaining funds may then be used at the school district's or charter school's discretion.</p>

# FY 27 Governor's Recommended Budget Items 6

Line Item	Amount
<p>Online Learning Adjustments</p> <p>Reduces funding for virtual education programs in response to Office of Performance Evaluations report and in current revenue outlook.</p> <p>Policy bills are in process.</p>	<p><b>-\$33.1</b> million General Fund</p> <p><b>-\$3.2</b> million in virtual programs transportation funding.</p> <p><b>-\$19.9</b> million in salary-based apportionment funding for virtual programs supplemental learning funds.</p> <p><b>-\$10</b> million in Idaho Digital Learning Academy funding.</p>

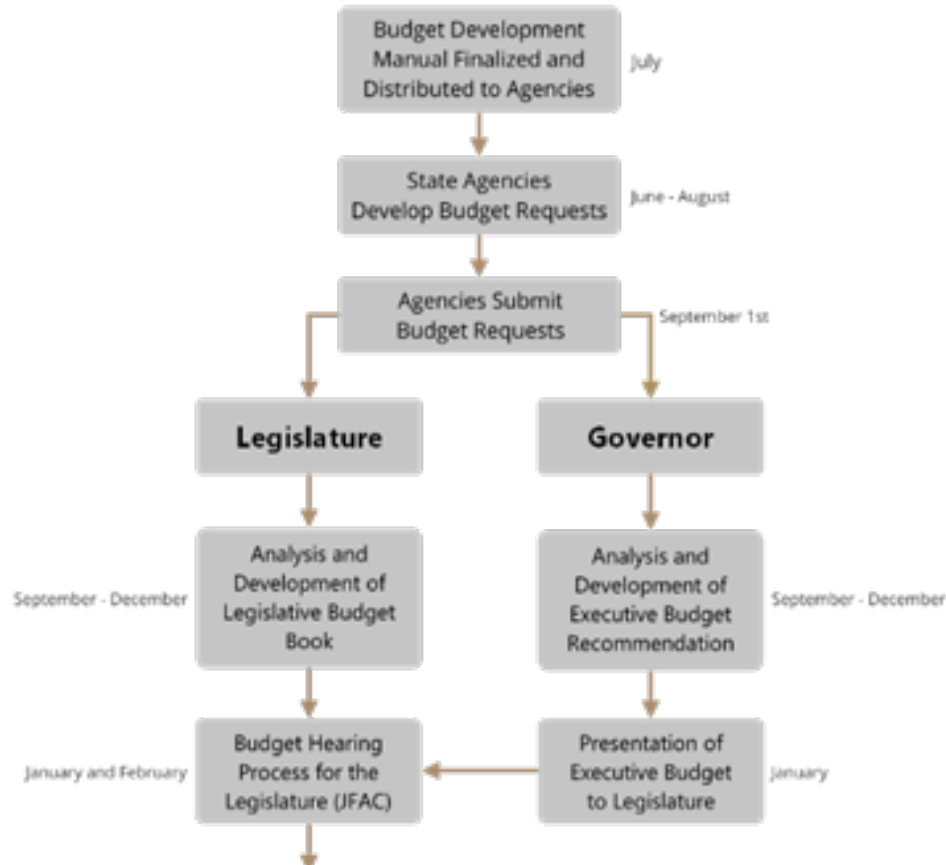
# Federal Budget Update

- Congressional budget writers have released a bipartisan, bicameral draft U.S. Department of Education budget for the 2026 federal fiscal year.
- If lawmakers and the president approve the bill as written, funding next school year for key federal programs serving low-income students and students with disabilities would remain virtually the same as in the current and previous school years.
- The only significant education priority for which Congress is now proposing reduced year-over-year funding is research.
- The current U.S. government continuing resolution (CR) expires on January 30, 2026, a deadline set by a November 2025 bill that temporarily funded agencies.

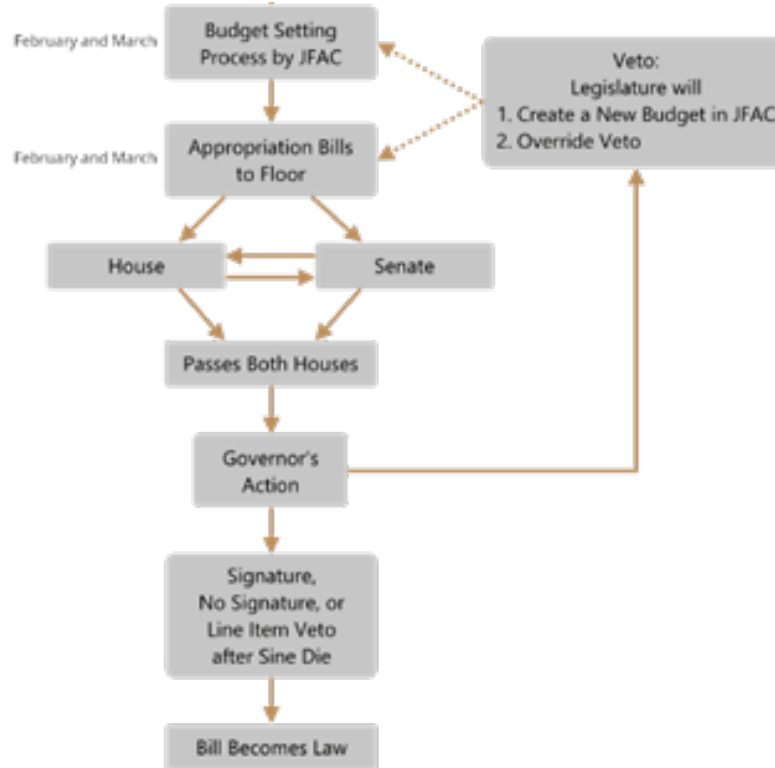
# PD in 30: Session Survival Tips

Rob Sepich – Budget Director

# How it Works:



# How it Works Pt. 2:



# Helpful Links

- Where is the budget? <https://legislature.idaho.gov/lso/bpa/>
- Where do I find proposed legislation?  
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/2026/legislation/>
- What legislation is up for vote soon?
  - Senate: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/agenda/scal/>
  - House: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/agenda/hcal/>
- What is being heard in the Committees today?  
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/sessioninfo/agenda/meeting-summary/>
- Who is my legislator?  
<https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/whosmylegislator/>
- Where do I watch the votes?  
<https://www.idahoptv.org/shows/idahoinsession/Legislature/>



# Thank you!

Rob Sepich  
Budget Director



Idaho Department  
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# Contact Us! Special Education Contacts

## Jacque Hyatt

Director

[\(208\) 332-6806](tel:(208)332-6806)

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

**Special Education**

## Randi Cole

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6918](tel:(208)332-6918)

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

**Secondary Special Education**

## Shannon Dunstan

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6908](tel:(208)332-6908)

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

**Early Childhood & School Supports**

## Lily Phillips

Administrative Assistant

[\(208\) 332-6896](tel:(208)332-6896)

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

## Jeff Brandt

Dispute Resolution Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6914](tel:(208)332-6914)

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

## Elizabeth Congdon

Senior Program Specialist

[\(208\) 332-6912](tel:(208)332-6912)

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

**Dispute Resolution**

## Cynthia Mecham

Data & Reporting Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6919](tel:(208)332-6919)

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

## Terry Uda

Data Analysis & Support Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6933](tel:(208)332-6933)

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

## Lisa Pofelski-Rosa

Principal Financial Specialist

[\(208\) 332-6916](tel:(208)332-6916)

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

**Special Education Funding & Accountability**

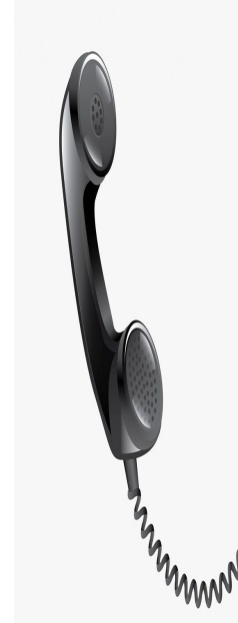
## Sharie Monteferrante

Financial Specialist

[\(208\) 332-6910](tel:(208)332-6910)

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

**Special Education Contracts & Fiscal**



# Federal Programs Contacts

## **Maria Puga**

Director

[\(208\) 332-6905](tel:(208)332-6905)

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

**Federal Programs Director, English Learner Program and Title III Program Coordinator**

## **Patty Dalrymple**

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6917](tel:(208)332-6917)

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

**School Improvement & Support**

## **Aaron Kennedy**

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6847](tel:(208)332-6847)

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

**Data & Reporting**

## **Alejandra Castaneda**

Program Specialist

[\(208\) 332-6875](tel:(208)332-6875)

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

**Title I-A: Improving Basic Programs**

## **Lisa English**

Coordinator & Private School Ombudsman

[\(208\) 332-6911](tel:(208)332-6911)

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

**Federal Programs Monitoring and Equitable Services**

## **Emily Kesler**

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6904](tel:(208)332-6904)

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

**Title I-D: Neglected or Delinquent Education,  
Title IX-A: Homeless Children & Youth**

## **Austin Kohout**

Principal Financial Specialist

[\(208\) 332-6900](tel:(208)332-6900)

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

**Federal Programs / ESEA Funding**

## **Jill Mathews**

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6855](tel:(208)332-6855)

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

**Family & Community Engagement (FACE), Title IV-A: Student Support & Academic Enrichment**

## **Michelle Perreira**

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6942](tel:(208)332-6942)

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

**Title I-A: Improving Basic Programs and Title V-B: Rural Education Initiative**

## **Roberto Trinidad**

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6958](tel:(208)332-6958)

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

**Title I-C: Migrant Education**

## **Valeria Pantoja**

Program Specialist

[\(208\) 332-6907](tel:(208)332-6907)

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

**Title III: English Learner Program, Title I-C: Migrant Education, McKinney-Vento (MV)**

## **Carol Roessler**

Coordinator

[\(208\) 332-6889](tel:(208)332-6889)

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

**Title II-A: Supporting Effective Instruction**

## **Cathy Vaughan**

Administrative Assistant

[\(208\) 332-6985](tel:(208)332-6985)

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

**Federal Programs**

Rob Sepich

Budget Director

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

Austin Kohout

Financial Specialist, Principal

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

Federal Programs

Lisa Pofelski Rosa

Financial Specialist, Principal

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

Special Education



Idaho Department  
of Education

# Thanks!

Please feel free to reach out with any questions!



**Your Efforts Are  
Appreciated,  
Noticed, and  
Essential to  
Students in Idaho**

**Thank You and  
Stay Super!**



**Idaho Department  
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