



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DEPARTMENT PROVIDES SUPPORT TO RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN DATA REPORTING

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(BOISE) – School safety, addressing bullying and harassment, and fostering positive school climates are critical topics that school administrators deal with on a daily basis.

Superintendents and school administrators are working very hard to support students in these areas, and in many cases lack the resources and personnel to complete the data and reporting requirements associated with these efforts.

Imbedded within a new rule by the Idaho State Board of Education focused on addressing bullying, there is a requirement that incidents of bullying data be reported to the Idaho State Department of Education. This information is very important to inform local and state approaches to keep students safe, and to strengthen and refine local bullying and school safety policies. This reporting process is another example of the need for Rural Education Support Networks throughout the state, which will provide Idaho’s small rural school districts an opportunity to pool their resources to more efficiently complete reporting requirements, such as bullying data.

“Superintendents and school administrators, especially throughout our rural school districts, are working very hard to support their students and are lacking important personnel resources to meet all reporting requirements,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “These small rural districts would benefit from the opportunity to pool their resources together to streamline how reporting is conducted, thereby reducing the burden. This is where Rural Education Support Networks can play a significant role in leveraging best practices and common approaches to addressing bullying and harassment, and allow school personnel to place their day-to-day focus on the students in their buildings.”

To support districts in understanding data reporting requirements, staff within the Idaho State Department of Education have been supporting a number of districts providing on-site support and training, and through telephone conferencing as well.

“It’s about providing support and guidance to districts when they ask for help,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “When we recognize a need, we will come running to give these rural school districts all the support that they need. Because, ultimately it is about supporting school administrators in gathering this data to make decisions that positively impact the lives of their students.”

Questions regarding support for school districts in reporting bullying data may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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