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SHERRI YBARRA
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DEPARTMENT RELEASES THIRD YEAR GRADUATION RATE UNDER NEW CALCULATION SHOWING INCREASE

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(BOISE) – The Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) released the 2015-2016 graduation rates for each school district and public charter school, Superintendent Sherri Ybarra announced today. The 2015-16 school year statewide graduation rate confirms the percentage of students earning their high school diploma in four years at 79.5%. This is an increase from the 2014-2015 statewide graduation rate of 78.9%, and also from the 2013-2014 *baseline* statewide graduation rate of 77.3%.

“This is proof that we are seeing a positive trend in our graduation rate under the four-year calculation, and it shows the hard work that is being done at the local level to emphasize the importance of achieving a high school diploma,” Superintendent Sherri Ybarra said. “As we are seeing our graduation rate increase, it is also important that we highlight the efforts that are being made by local school districts in preparing students to be college and career ready. Supporting students through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) process, establishing internships, and supporting them in Advanced Opportunities truly supports students in achieving their educational goals.”

The SDE is required to release the graduation rate each year using the new federal calculation, and this is now the third year of cohort reporting. The new calculation, or method, counts specific student populations as *non-graduates* who were previously counted as graduates or removed entirely; *non-graduate* examples are as follows:

- Alternative students who are in school completing credits to graduate
- Students who earned a GED
- Special education students who earned a diploma under adapted guidelines
- Students that were not assigned a specific exit code or withdrawal reason unknown
- Students who transferred out of state without official documentation
- Other reasons; such as, medical, reached maximum age, or denied appeals where adequate documentation was not submitted

Additional information on the new federal calculation may be found on the [SDE communication webpage](#). For further clarification or if you have questions, please contact Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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