



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**YBARRA PRAISES WORK OF K-3 EDUCATORS; INCREASED
STATE SUPPORT FOR EARLY READING**

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(BOISE) – Overall, the percentage of students in kindergarten through third grade reading at grade level increased from a year ago. The Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), released in early August, shows the percent of students reading at grade level rose from 72% to 73% from spring 2016 to 2017.

“I am excited to see this positive change and want to recognize effort of teachers, parents and students,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra. “It also highlights the value of state policymakers and leaders collaborating to align resources to support improved learning.”

2016-17 was the first year of an expanded statewide early literacy initiative that increased funding to local schools to provide support to below grade level readers. The increased funding was used in a variety of ways from providing increased learning time for students to professional development for teachers and other locally determined supports. The initiative also increased the information provided to parents.

This fall, schools across the state will pilot a test to replace the current Idaho Reading Indicator. The new assessment will provide information that is much more detailed to aid teachers in identifying what skills students are striving to master.

Director of Assessment and Accountability Karlynn Laraway said the replacement IRI provided by Istation also would include expanded resources for teachers.

“We are looking forward to providing better tools for teachers to pinpoint areas for more attention and to monitor progress through the school year,” she said.

To learn more about the most recent IRI results, please visit <http://apps.sde.idaho.gov/ReportCard>. Additional information about the IRI pilot involving 57 Idaho schools districts may be found at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/communications/>.

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