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**SHERRI YBARRA**  
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## **YBARRA INITIATES STATEWIDE CONVERSATION ABOUT TESTING**

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(BOISE) – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra detailed plans today for a statewide dialogue about what Idahoans want in their assessments for public schools.

“As I shared with educators last spring, a thoughtful conversation about what Idahoans want and value in assessment system is long overdue,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “We are building on our successful Idaho Challenge where Idahoans participated in a careful review of what we want students to know and be able to do which resulted in the Idaho Content Standards, and now it’s time to talk about testing.”

Karlynn Laraway, Director of Assessment and Accountability, provided an overview of the department’s yearlong plan to engage stakeholders conversation and review about what Idahoans from teachers to parents to business leaders want and need from the state’s assessment system.

“This isn’t a conversation about the strengths or weakness of specific tests,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “We want to hear from stakeholders what they value in assessment programs. We will share that information to guide the development of our state program to support student learning.”

The state will collaborate with Assessment Solutions Group (ASG) during the 2017-18 school year to engage Idahoans about K-12 testing. After briefing the State Board of Education in August, ASG and the Department will recruit representatives of stakeholder groups to form a task force that will meet about six times during the year.

The tentative schedule of activities for the task force will include:

- conducting focus groups through the state,
- gathering feedback through an online survey for all Idahoans, and
- reviewing research, and
- learning about how various assessments support teaching and learning.

The goal would be for a report summarizing the task force work to be shared with State Board of Education in June 2018.

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