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## **Superintendent Ybarra asks for investments in students, teachers**

(BOISE) – Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra will ask the Legislature to invest in immediate student safety needs, increased support for teachers and continued forward momentum for the state’s plan to improve K-12 education.

Superintendent Ybarra today filed budget requests that include \$19.1 million for supplemental funding to address safety needs in the current school year and an \$80.7 million investment in improving teacher pay in 2019-20.

“Today’s budgets include strategic investments in critical areas: safety for our more than 300,000 public school students and the Career Ladder for our more than 17,700 educators,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I appreciate the Legislature’s commitment to our students and our teachers, and these requests continue the momentum of our work together to support schools and students to achieve.”

### **Student Safety Investment**

Superintendent Ybarra’s \$19.1 million supplemental request supports the first-year implementation of her Keep Idaho Students Safe (KISS) Initiative, proposed six months ago.

In April, she invited Idahoans to weigh in on three broad safety areas for the proposed investment: teacher training, dedicated funding to boost local security efforts and state level crisis support for schools.

“I appreciate all the ideas and comments that poured in from Idahoans and stakeholders. It echoed the concerns about bullying, suicide and safety that I’ve been hearing from Idahoans and working on since I took office,” she said. “My takeaway from the recent dialogue is overwhelming support for training and increased funding. There was no consensus about a common solution for every school. That’s not surprising given the unique needs of every community. The proposal today includes a flexible grant program so districts can address unmet security needs.”

The FY 19 supplemental request includes \$18.5 million in one-time funds for security grants to school districts to address their identified needs; \$410,000 to develop a safety course for teachers; \$200,000 for a statewide safety tip line; and \$38,900 for a crisis communication counselor to support districts.

The second-year request includes implementation of the course, continuation of the tip line, and state counseling support.

### FY 20 Public Schools Budget Request

Superintendent Ybarra’s \$2.28 billion FY 20 budget includes a 6.8 percent increase or about \$122 million more in general fund support. The majority of the increase -- \$80.7 million --- is an investment in Idaho’s education workforce.

“Increasing pay has been and remains the No. 1 priority of stakeholders, and I agree wholeheartedly,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I heard a desire for a ‘bold ask’ for teacher pay. This isn’t just bold -- it’s essential.”

Superintendent Ybarra’s request includes the following investments in teacher pay:

- \$52.9 million for the fifth year of the Career Ladder compensation system;
- \$27.8 million to increase the Career Ladder base allocation levels to the original recommendation of \$40,000 for beginning teachers and \$58,000 the most experienced. Rung increases would be:

Rung	Planned Year 5	Proposed Year 5	\$ Change	% Change
R1	\$37,000	\$40,000	\$3,000	8.1%
R2	\$38,000	\$41,500	\$3,500	9.2%
R3	\$39,000	\$43,000	\$4,000	10.3%
P1	\$42,500	\$47,400	\$4,900	11.5%
P2	\$44,375	\$50,000	\$5,625	12.7%
P3	\$46,250	\$52,600	\$6,350	13.7%
P4	\$48,125	\$55,300	\$7,175	14.9%
P5	\$50,000	\$58,000	\$8,000	16.0%

- \$11.9 million for the first year of Master Educator premiums, which provides qualifying educators an annual \$4,000 bonus for three years.

“Thanks to the state’s commitment to the Career Ladder plan, teacher pay has improved during the past four years,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “However, as the teacher shortage grows in our state, it is compounded by the greater investments by other states in teacher pay. Study after study show that Idaho teacher pay – adjusted for inflation or not – is not competitive. Idaho simply isn’t keeping pace, and that’s bad for our students.”

Superintendent Ybarra also is proposing investment to support rural areas with attracting and retaining teachers. She's included \$980,000 to launch a five-year "Partnerships for Rural Educator Preparation" to provide incentives to individuals to become teachers and teach in rural school districts.

"We must begin to better support our rural districts with their most critical needs, and recruiting and keeping teachers is the best place to start," she said.

Other highlights of the FY 20 request include:

- \$7.4 million increase for operations funds earmarked for health insurance increase;
- \$7.4 million increase for operation funds for discretionary use by districts;
- \$3 million increase for Advanced Opportunities;
- \$2 million increase for professional development;
- \$3 million increase for classroom technology;
- \$1.4 million increase to support the expansion of mastery education;
- \$1.6 million for second-year support for the Keep Idaho Students Safe Initiative.

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**Editors and reporters:** Attached are one-page summaries of the FY 20 Budget Request; the Keep Idaho Students Safe Initiative and the Partnerships for Rural Educator Preparation Initiative.