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Idaho State Department of Education unveils new K-12 Report Card

(BOISE) – After nine months of intensive work, the State Department of Education’s revamped K-12 Report Card is available online, providing a user-friendly way for parents, educators and others to access information about schools and districts throughout the state.

Part of the state’s new accountability system, the new site provides information about multiple student performance indicators, offering context in addition to the data.

“I am so proud of my accountability team’s efforts on this,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. “This new site is easy to navigate, presents information clearly and without bias, and gives parents and others the information they want without wading through columns of other information.”

And it has an easy to remember online address: idahoschools.org

“We’re very excited to release this to the public, to help people make sense of our new accountability system,” Director of Assessment and Accountability Karlynn Laraway said. “The site is designed with the idea that you shouldn’t need a manual to walk through the report card and understand it.”

Early response to the new report card has been very positive, Laraway said, including from a parent focus group. On Monday, she previewed the site for the stakeholders group that helped identify the report card’s vision, including the Idaho School Board Association, the Idaho Association of School Administrators, the Idaho Commission on Hispanic Affairs, Idaho Business for Education and the Idaho Division of Career-Technical Association.

Responding to that presentation, State Board of Education President Dr. Linda Clark offered “gigantic kudos” to Laraway’s team for capturing stakeholders’ priorities and objectives. The report card’s public unveiling came Wednesday afternoon at the State Board meeting.

On Tuesday, Laraway presented webinars on the new report card for principals and superintendents. Earlier, her team worked with a focus group of parents to help make sure the finished product would serve that audience well.

The home page for the new site is not labeled “report card,” in part to convey that the SDE is not grading the state’s schools and districts, Laraway said. Instead, it introduces the site as the Idaho School Finder.

Users can easily navigate the site for assessment results and a wide range of other information including school demographic information, teacher workforce, enrollment and results from a new student engagement survey taken by students in grades 3-8. A feature powered by Google Maps allows parents to view schools within a given radius.

Sections of report card are introduced by questions, such as:

- “Are students meeting grade-level expectations?”
- “What is the retention rate of teachers in this school?”
- “Are students cognitively, emotionally and behaviorally engaged?”

The new report card is a portal into the results of Idaho’s [new state accountability plan](#), approved by the U.S. Department of Education this past March. The plan identifies schools that are underperforming so the State Department of Education can partner with local school leadership teams to identify specific supports and plans for improvement. The plan also celebrates schools’ successes and provides educators additional tools for measuring growth.

While fully functional and freshly designed, the new report card will see refinements and additions in the coming year, Laraway said. More features will be added in January, including a comparison tool that allows users to call up information on three schools at a time.

In August, when results from new parent and teacher surveys are available, that information will be added to the site. The report card will be updated each August with the previous year’s assessment results.

And for those who miss the Excel spreadsheets from the old K-12 report card, that data is still available on [the SDE’s accountability page](#) and can be reached via “Additional Links/see more detailed data” on the new report card site.

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