



SHERRI YBARRA, ED.S.
SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

650 W. STATE STREET, 2ND FLOOR
BOISE, IDAHO 83702
(208) 332-6800 OFFICE / 711 TRS
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 21, 2022
www.sde.idaho.gov

Media Contact:
Kristin Rodine
Public Information Officer
208-332-6807
krodine@sde.idaho.gov

Supt. Ybarra celebrates approval of new content standards, dyslexia bill

(BOISE) – Two bills advocated by Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra – one to adopt new Idaho content standards for math, science and English Language Arts, and another to help detect dyslexia early in Idaho children’s education -- were approved by the state Senate late Monday afternoon and now await the governor’s signature.

“Both of these bills are great news for Idaho’s students, families and educators,” said Superintendent Ybarra, who brought forward a dyslexia bill that combined with another to form the measure approved Monday.

“House Bill 731 blends the best parts of the original House and Senate bills,” the superintendent said. “We all wanted the same thing – to help children with dyslexia learn to read on an even playing field with their peers, and to train educators to detect characteristics of dyslexia and give students the specialized teaching they need.”

Superintendent Ybarra’s State Department of Education oversaw development of the new content standards, which represent an important step forward and away from the controversial “Common Core” math and ELA standards first adopted in 2011.

“Committees of teachers, parents, lawmakers, school board members and administrators worked nearly two years to review and revise these standards, studying standards from other states, listening to public input and making sure our finished product is streamlined, simplified, clear and still rigorous,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “They did a tremendous job, and our students will be well served by these new standards.”

As for the Common Core, she said, “I’ve been listening to this controversy since I took office seven years ago. It’s time to move on. Our system calls for content standards to be reviewed and revised every five to six years, and this thorough, deliberate process was past due.”

In addition to math, English and science standards, the legislation covers new certification standards for professional school personnel.

House Bill 716, once signed into law, will adopt the new standards developed by work groups in 2020-21. A companion resolution to eliminate the old standards was adopted by both chambers earlier this month, and is scheduled to take effect July 1.

#