



**PUBLIC SCHOOLS RELEASE**  
**TO: Superintendents, Charter Administrators**  
Wednesday, October 21, 2015  
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## **STATE BOARD UNANIMOUSLY APPROVES WAIVERS BROUGHT FORWARD BY SUPERINTENDENT YBARRA**

(BOISE) – The superintendent today brought forward two waivers which would remove the testing requirement for 9<sup>th</sup> grade students and the graduation requirement for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. Superintendent Ybarra supports the minimum testing requirement of grades 3-8 and once in high school. The superintendent had received feedback from several school districts that the requirements were not beneficial and unrealistic with the adoption of more rigorous state standards and a new year-end summative assessment.

“It was clear that we needed to take a step back and provide some relief for local school districts,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I support the minimum testing requirements—it is too soon to make the new summative assessment a high stakes assessment for students in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. We also wanted to provide the 9<sup>th</sup> grade assessment as an option to school districts throughout the state and allow their local leadership the flexibility to exercise local control in the best interest of our students.”

Members of the Idaho State Board of Education heard comments from Superintendent Ybarra prior to the waivers being up for consideration. Following discussion and questions by board members, the waiver removing the 9<sup>th</sup> grade testing requirement passed the board unanimously. Additionally, the waiver removing the 10<sup>th</sup> grade graduation requirement related to the year-end summative assessment also passed unanimously. Both waivers will be in effect for the upcoming spring 2016 assessment.

Superintendent Ybarra continued by saying, “I was happy to see these waivers passed by the board this afternoon. This action supports what school districts were asking for and is reflective of our collaborative process, and I commend the state board for their support this afternoon.”

Additional questions regarding the passage of these waivers may be directed to Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at [jchurch@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jchurch@sde.idaho.gov).

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