



**SHERRI YBARRA, ED.S.**  
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## **Reaction to ‘State of the State’**

### **Superintendent Ybarra hails governor’s planned record investment in education**

(BOISE) – Gov. Brad Little’s State of the State address Monday delivered exciting news to families and educators throughout Idaho.

“In announcing the largest-ever investment in Idaho education, our governor gave a glimpse of a bright future in the midst of the setbacks and disruptions of this long-running pandemic,” Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said Monday in response to the governor’s 1 p.m. speech. “I am excited that he not only continues to make education a top priority, but shares my passion for boosting early literacy and improving teachers’ pay as crucial steps toward improving student achievement and success.”

“By recommending \$47 million to ongoing funding for literacy programming, the governor’s plan opens tremendous opportunities for providing our youngest learners with a strong foundation and long-lasting momentum,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “Helping K-3 students learn to read, so they can read to learn, has been a top priority for me since the beginning of my career.”

The superintendent’s budget request, to be delivered to the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee on Jan. 17, requests \$26 million in continuing K-3 literacy funding plus \$39.3 million to provide free, optional all-day kindergarten across Idaho for about two-thirds of all incoming kindergartners – those who need it most, according to reading-readiness screening and economic status.

That kindergarten program will have a strong emphasis on parental involvement, which is crucial in all education initiatives, the superintendent said. And it also fits in with the governor’s vision for partnering with parents for educating Idaho children.

“I also endorse the governor’s plan to quicken the pace of improving teacher pay –a key priority in my budget,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “Rewarding, retaining and recruiting skilled teachers is among the surest ways to reach our shared goal of helping every Idaho student succeed in school and beyond.”

“I am thrilled that the governor met my request for using COVID relief funds to provide \$1,000 bonuses for Idaho teachers, whose commitment, skill and above-and-beyond efforts are essential to minimizing learning loss and supporting students through the pandemic,” the superintendent said.

“The governor’s proposals are different from mine in approach and detail, but not intent,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “As we write the book of Idaho education’s future, the governor and I are on the same page and working toward shared goals.”

“The governor recognizes that the learning loss and other repercussions of the pandemic have increased schools and districts’ needs, and Idaho has the resources available to make the needed investments,” the superintendent said. “I believe lawmakers will share that commitment.”

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