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## **Supt. Ybarra, lawmakers celebrate new content standards, look at next steps**

(BOISE) – A bill to adopt new Idaho content standards for math, science and English Language Arts, replacing the controversial “Common Core,” is now Idaho law, and Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra and lawmakers gathered Thursday to celebrate that achievement and discuss the next steps for putting these standards into effect.

Gov. Brad Little signed House Bill 716 Thursday afternoon. The new content standards – and new certification standards for professional school personnel – become law July 1.

“I want to thank all the educators who supported this work. Their input and support in rewriting our standards was essential,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “I also want to thank all the legislators who held numerous public hearings on the content and certification standards and who spent countless hours working on the review committees. We all share a commitment to make sure Idaho students get the best education possible.”

House Education Committee Chair Lance Clow, R-Twin Falls, authored the bill.

“Updating, streamlining and simplifying our standards was really important work, and the committees, including many lawmakers, teachers and education leaders, did a tremendous job,” Rep. Clow said. “Normally, standards would be adopted and sent to the Legislature through the state’s rules-making process, but when that didn’t happen this time, we thought it was important to move it forward through the lawmaking process.”

Senate Education Committee Chair Steven Thayn, R-Emmett, said the standards review and revision process was “thorough and deliberate, with the right people at the table. It was important for legislators to be involved to ensure the new standards would have strong support.”

Mary Kapptie Spiker, a Blackfoot School District kindergarten teacher and former Idaho Teacher of the Year, served on the English Language Arts working group and celebrated when she heard the standards bill had been signed.

“Yes! This just made my day,” she said. “So many rich conversations took place in refining and creating rigorous standards that make sense to teachers and learners.”

State Department of Education staff are working on “crosswalk” documents to show what has changed in the new standards and make it easy for teachers to incorporate those changes into their lessons next fall. The department also will work to align existing assessments with the new standards.

The superintendent’s department oversaw development of the new standards, seen as an important step forward and away from the controversial “Common Core” math and ELA standards first adopted in 2011 and modified in 2015.

“The signing of House Bill 716 puts Idaho students on an even better path toward increased achievement as we move forward,” Superintendent Ybarra said. “Our teachers and students will be well served by these new standards.”

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