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Supt. Ybarra praises Gov. Little's continued commitment to education

(BOISE) – Monday's State of the State address by Gov. Brad Little offered welcome news to educators and families throughout Idaho.

"Investing in Idaho's public schools continues to be the top priority for Gov. Little, with a particular emphasis on literacy and making sure all Idaho students can read to learn," Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said. "We are allies in the effort to improve student performance, safety and post-graduation success. And we are committed to improving teacher pay as a key way to help achieve that goal."

The governor's commitment to restoring the career ladder for teachers this year, including implementation of an additional level to help retain veteran teachers, echoes the superintendent's priorities. His budget recommendation also includes increases in administrative and classified staff salaries and funding to offset increases in health insurance for public school employees.

Superintendent Ybarra also praised the governor's proposal to invest \$20 million in a summer reading program, fortifying the state's commitment to early literacy for all Idaho children.

"This funding is timely and will support schools' efforts to address learning loss and close achievement gaps exacerbated by the pandemic," the superintendent said.

In addition, shifting the state to an enrollment-based funding formula, as outlined in the governor's budget, will help districts and charter schools throughout Idaho maintain operations.

"As in past years, I'm happy that the governor's budget aligns so closely with my priorities for education," Superintendent Ybarra said. "I look forward to this legislative session and to working with the Governor and the Legislature to support schools and students to achieve."

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