



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**MASTERY EDUCATION NETWORK APPLICATION PROCESS
NOW AVAILABLE TO IDAHO SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS**

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(BOISE) – The Idaho State Department of Education released the Idaho Mastery Education Network (IMEN) application for schools and districts to apply, Superintendent Sherri Ybarra announced today. Applications are due Friday March 11, 2016 at 5 p.m., and are available on the department website at <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/mastery-ed/>.

IMEN was authorized last year when Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter signed H 110 into law in 2015, moving Idaho towards a mastery-based education model. This model will move students away from the current time-based system to a mastery system to allow for a more personalized and differentiated learning experience. As part of the H 110, the Idaho State Department of Education is developing a process for up to 20 schools to transition to mastery education beginning in 2017.

“Mastery Education is truly a local initiative, and it’s very progressive,” Superintendent Sherri Ybarra said. “It can look different in a small rural school versus a large high school, and our great local leaders and their communities can still determine how to best meet the needs of their students.”

The program is designed to examine the best strategies for enacting this learning approach and to build public awareness. It will examine adjustments required by students, teachers, schools and the state education system as a whole.

In a Mastery Education system, students advance to higher levels of learning when they demonstrate mastery of concepts and skills regardless of time, place, or pace. Every student is different and has strengths and weaknesses in different subjects. By supporting students to move on only when they have mastered the material, Idaho can move towards achievement rather than a system based on traditional age and grade that move either too slow or fast for their abilities.

For more information about the Idaho Mastery Education Network (IMEN), please contact Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at jchurch@sde.idaho.gov.

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