



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SHERRI YBARRA**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**DEPARTMENT RELEASES SECOND YEAR GRADUATION  
RATE UNDER NEW CALCULATION SHOWING INCREASE**

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(BOISE) – The Idaho State Department of Education (SDE) released the 2014-2015 graduation rates for each school district and public charter school, Superintendent Sherri Ybarra announced today. The 2014-15 school year statewide graduation rate confirms the percentage of students earning their high school diploma in four years at 78.9%. This is an increase from the 2013-2014 statewide graduation rate of 77.3%, which previously established the *baseline* under the new federal calculation.

“It is positive movement in the state regarding our graduation rate under the new calculation,” Superintendent Sherri Ybarra said. “It is also important to remember that we are graduating students at a higher rate nationally than ever before, and we will continue to place focus on the graduation rate moving forward to ensure that the best support and initiatives are provided to schools and students.”

The SDE is required to release the graduation rate each year using the new federal calculation, and this is now the second year of cohort reporting. The new calculation, or method, counts specific student populations as *non-graduates* who were previously counted as graduates or removed entirely; *non-graduate* examples are as follows:

- alternative students who are in school completing credits to graduate
- students who earned a GED
- special education students who earned a diploma under adapted guidelines
- students that were not assigned a specific exit code or withdrawal reason unknown
- Students who transferred out of state without official documentation
- Other reasons; such as, medical, reached maximum age, or denied appeals where adequate documentation was not submitted

Additional information on the new federal calculation may be found on the [SDE communication webpage](#). For further clarification or if you have questions, please contact Jeff Church at (208) 332-6934 or by email at [jchurch@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:jchurch@sde.idaho.gov).

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**Attachment:** 2014-2015 Statewide, District Graduation Rates