



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 3, 2020

www.sde.idaho.gov

Media Contact:

Kristin Rodine

Public Information Officer

208-332-6807

krodine@sde.idaho.gov

Superintendent Ybarra statement on JFAC action on K-12, operations budgets

(BOISE) – The Idaho Legislature’s Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee (JFAC) took up Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra’s proposed fiscal 2021 budgets for K-12 public schools and departmental operations Tuesday. JFAC’s actions, approving several of the superintendent’s key priorities, now go to the full House and Senate for approval. Superintendent Ybarra’s response:

“I appreciate the Joint Finance-Appropriations Committee’s thoughtful consideration of my budget request and the continued high priority they place on funding K-12 education.”

“I’m particularly grateful that lawmakers recognized how essential it is to keep skilled, experienced teachers on the job and once again approved expanding the career ladder to improve teacher pay. Idaho’s teacher shortage is a critical problem for local schools, particularly in rural areas and in fields such as special education, CTE, mathematics and literacy intervention.”

“Another big win for Idaho students was the committee’s decision to continue state funding for literacy intervention programs. This is essential for all aspects of Idaho education, because learning to read at grade level by third grade is critical for our students’ success in school and life.”

“Also, I greatly appreciate that my request to provide professional development for educators on social-emotional learning is being funded. There is nothing more important than keeping our students safe.”

“A K-12 line item that was not approved by JFAC was \$500,000 to expand the Idaho Mastery Education Network. However, our commitment to mastery-based education remains strong, as does schools’ interest in this innovative approach. The SDE will continue to provide the support our schools and districts need to continue Idaho’s transition to a student-centered approach.”

“One action by JFAC on the operations budget is concerning -- a move to transfer IT and data management out of the State Department of Education and into the State Board of Education. My primary objective will be to make sure this change does not adversely affect the school districts and charter schools that depend on the K-12 data system (ISEE) to determine distribution of funding.”

###