



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 14, 2025
www.sde.idaho.gov

Media Contact:
Maggie T. Reynolds
Public Information Officer
208-332-6976
mreynolds@sde.idaho.gov

Idaho Department of Education to Pilot Special Education Parent Partnership with IPUL and Lake Pend Oreille School District

(BOISE) – The Idaho Department of Education, along with Idaho Parents Unlimited (IPUL) and the Lake Pend Oreille School District are kicking off a pilot program designed to connect parents and guardians of special education students with state and local experts to gain a comprehensive understanding of the special education process. The pilot is designed to support students and families of special education students. It will begin with an event for local parents in Sandpoint this Wednesday.

“The Parent Partnership was organized in direct response to last year’s listening sessions with parents and practitioners, and I hope that it will be a model for future statewide opportunities for Idaho’s parents and guardians,” said Superintendent of Public Instruction Debbie Critchfield. “Special education is a complex system, especially for newcomers, and meaningful participation means gaining an understanding of a large amount of information,” she said. “This event is also meant to be collaborative, and I want our experts to walk away with a better understanding of what barriers parents are encountering when it comes to ensuring student success and how we can seamlessly work together to address this need.”

Parents and guardians will have the opportunity to learn more about:

- Child Find and referral;
- evaluation;
- Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and the complete IEP process;
- district and state-level contacts for support and guidance; and
- more.

The event will be hosted Wednesday, April 16 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. PT at Farmin Stidwell Elementary School in Sandpoint. Free childcare will be provided, and participants will be served

dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by a joint presentation from Idaho Department of Education, IPUL and district staff on a range of topics within the special education realm. Staff will be on hand to address parent questions and concerns during the interactive, collaborative session. Parents are encouraged to share their experiences with the special education process.

Parents and guardians in the Lake Pend Oreille School District interested in attending do not need to RSVP. Questions can be directed to Director of Services for Exceptional Children Joy Jansen at joy.jansen@lposd.org.

###