



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, July 1, 2019

[www.sde.idaho.gov](http://www.sde.idaho.gov)

**Media Contact:**

Kristin Rodine  
Public Information Officer  
208-332-6807  
[krodine@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:krodine@sde.idaho.gov)

## **Idaho students' preliminary ISAT scores for 2019 show improvement**

(BOISE) – The latest statewide results for the Idaho Standards Achievement Test show steady improvement in Idaho students' proficiency over the past few years, Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra said Monday.

"It's encouraging to see steady increases, both from year to year and from grade to grade as students progress," Superintendent Ybarra said. "More Idaho students are performing at a proficient or advanced level, and we believe that trend will continue."

"My staff will analyze the results for a meaningful understanding of student progress and the trends in student cohorts," the superintendent said.

The Idaho Standards Achievement Test is administered each spring to all public school students in grades 3-8 and 10, gauging their proficiency in Mathematics and English Language Arts/ Literacy. Final results will not be available until August, but preliminary results show:

- In math, preliminary proficiency for the state is 44.43 percent in 2019, up from 43.31 percent last year, 41.86 percent in 2017 and 41.5 percent in 2016.
- The percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in math went up in five of the seven grade levels, with gains ranging from 1 percent to 3 percent. In 10th grade, the percentage remained the same as last year's, and sixth grade results dipped by 1 percent.
- In ELA, preliminary proficiency is 55.01 percent, up from 53.7 percent in 2018 and 52 percent in 2017, when statewide proficiency declined from the 2016 level of 53.2 percent.
- The percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in ELA increased at four grade levels – 4, 5, 6 and 7 – and remained the same as 2018's rates in the remaining three.

Looking at the results as students move from grade to grade shows promising trends, especially in ELA. Proficiency of third graders in 2018 was 50 percent and rose to 52 percent for the same cohort in fourth grade, and 2018 fourth graders' proficiency rate of 50 percent came in at 57 percent in grade 5.

In math, cohort analysis shows less consistent progress but highlights opportunity and the need for early intervention. Math proficiency tends to be higher in the early grades than in higher grades, while the opposite is generally true in ELA.

Many schools and districts continue to use tools provided by the State Department of Education, such as interim assessments, to help inform their instruction as students prepare for the spring test.

Karlynn Laraway, SDE's director of Assessment and Accountability, presented the 2019 results Monday to the governor's task force Our Kids, Idaho's Future, which met in Twin Falls.

Students finished testing in late May, and individual score reports are available through local school districts. Local educators will be able to review school-level data and ensure it is accurate before results are finalized. Final results will be available in the state's new interactive K-12 report card in mid-August.

Preliminary results include all students enrolled on or before May 3 of this year. The final results published in the report card will reflect students continuously enrolled in schools or districts through the school year.

###

**Attachment:** Excel file showing preliminary ISAT proficiency percentages for this year and the previous three years.