



PUBLIC SCHOOLS RELEASE
TO: Superintendents, Charter Administrators
Wednesday, June 08, 2016
www.sde.idaho.gov

Contacts:
Jeff Church
Chief Communications Officer
(208) 332-6934
jchurch@sde.idaho.gov

SHERRI YBARRA
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

SDE Support Desk
(208) 332-6923
support@sde.idaho.gov

650 W. STATE STREET
P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

OFFICE: 208-332-6800
FAX: 208-334-2228
SPEECH/HEARING
IMPAIRED: 1-800-377-3529
WWW.SDE.IDAHO.GOV

BEGINNING JULY 1ST, BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY CHANGE WILL TAKE EFFECT FOR ALL DISTRICTS AND CHARTERS

(BOISE) – To best meet the needs of school districts and charter schools in their hiring practices, to provide in-depth information for employment decisions, and to further protect students, all new hires including certified staff at a school district or charter school will be required to conduct a background check for employment purposes.

Beginning **July 1, 2016**, the following responsibilities will be required when considering certification through the State Department of Education, and employment at a school district or charter school:

- Currently, the Idaho State Department of Education conducts background checks for teacher certification applicants. The department retains the results and determines if the individual will receive an Idaho teaching credential per Idaho statute. This process remains the same.
- All school districts and charter schools will need to conduct a background check for all new hires including certified staff. Previously, the Certification Department kept the results for Idaho teaching credential per Idaho statute. Now, the local educational agency (LEA) will be able to retain the results for employment and hiring purposes of their certificated staff as currently done for classified staff.

Additionally, the department will no longer maintain a newly certified list accessible by school districts and charter schools—school districts and charter schools must now utilize the information obtained through the background check conducted for employment purposes.

For additional information regarding this policy change, please contact Lisa Colón, Director of Teacher Certification, at (208) 332-6886 or by email at lcolon@sde.idaho.gov.

###