

**From:** [Jeff Church](#)  
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**Subject:** Weekly Email Update  
**Date:** Thursday, January 12, 2017 4:07:17 PM

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## **WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATE**

**TO: Superintendents, Charter Administrators**

January 12, 2017

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

### **Questions Regarding Snow Days**

We understand what you are going through regarding snow days and cancellation of school days, and this has brought about many questions regarding school closures. Please see Idaho Code 33-512 and contact Public School Finance at (208) 332-6840 if you have any questions.

Make up days above and beyond the 11 hours would need to be determined and scheduled by the local board of trustees, and a revised calendar including those make up days would need to be submitted to the Idaho State Department of Education.

### **Parental Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting**

This week, Superintendent Ybarra held the first Parental Advisory Council (PAC) meeting with parents and representatives of parent/family advocacy groups from across the state. Superintendents across the state were asked to provide parent recommendations for the PAC, as well as suggestions from department staff of individuals to be involved. The next meeting date will be made available when it is scheduled. The goal of this meeting was to begin gathering direct feedback from parents on issues such as college and career advising, bullying, advanced opportunities, testing, and many more subjects. Additionally, the three main goals of this kickoff meeting of the PAC were:

1. Establish ways to effectively communicate, and gather feedback from parents
2. Gain a better understanding of what's working, and what not working from the parents perspective
3. Encourage continued involvement of parents in Idaho's educational system

### **High School Math Teachers Meeting**

This week, Superintendent Ybarra held a meeting with high school math teachers from across the state to have an exploratory conversation about Idaho's math programs. Math teachers were represented from many areas of the state, and we are truly appreciative of the time and effort that was made to attend this meeting. The math teachers involved came at the recommendations of local district superintendents. The next meeting date will be made available when it is scheduled.

Following the Idaho Challenge, review of Idaho's Math and English Language Arts (ELA) standards, the math teachers felt that it was important to stay the course with the current math standards because they are seeing progress working with students who have had the standards for the past several years. Additionally, the group felt it was important to provide definitions for success in mathematics as it relates to being college and career ready. These definitions would further define what math skills are needed to move on to college and the workforce. If you have questions regarding this meeting, please contact Dr. Chuck Zimmerly at [czimmerly@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:czimmerly@sde.idaho.gov).

## **2 Ears 2 Learn**

A non-profit organization created to help with [Microtia and Aural Atresia](#), 2 Ears 2 Learn collects used sound processors from audiologists, otolaryngologists, and patients who no longer need them. They are then refurbished and provided to children in need at no cost. As Idaho educators, 2 Ears 2 Learn is a valuable resource to support you when you have identified a student with microtia and aural atresia. To learn more about 2 Ears 2 Learn, and how they can support children in need, please visit <http://2ears2learn.org/for-educators/>. Also, please forward this information on to your school nurses so they are aware of 2 Ears 2 Learn.

## **Notes from SDE Staff**

- [Idaho Prevention and Support Conference is currently seeking proposals for workshops](#)
- [Join the 11,000 school participating in this year's National Geographic Bee. Registration ends January 23, 2017](#)
- [Federal grants for afterschool programs now available through 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers \(21<sup>st</sup> CCLC\)](#)
- [Response to Intervention \(RTI\) Training Now Available Through the State Department of Education](#)
- [Department and Professional Standards Commission \(PSC\) seek dedicated professionals to participate in the 2016 review of Idaho Standards for Administrator and Teacher Preparation](#)
- [2016-2017 Danielson Workshop offerings now open for registration](#)

## **ESSA Reminder**

- The department continues to accept feedback on the most recent draft of the ESSA Consolidated State Plan and updated timeline. The most recent draft and timeline are posted on the [Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan webpage](#).

## **Recent Releases**

- [Idaho Reading Indicator \(IRI\) Information Now Available Following Intent to Award to Istation \(1.3.2017\)](#)

## **Down The Road...**

- [April 5-7, 2017 for the 2017 Federal Programs Conference themed "Imagine the Possibilities" – Call for Presenters, Click Here to learn more](#)
- [Join us for the Idaho Prevention and Support Conference, April 13-14, 2017. Now accepting proposals for presenters. Click here for more information.](#)
- [National History Day 2017 in Idaho focuses on historic people and events by exploring archives, libraries, and other resources](#)

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks  
Jeff

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