



April 1, 2016

Dear Colleagues:

**SHERRI YBARRA**  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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The Idaho State Department of Education continues to support school leaders with a new opportunity for early career principals. The Department is offering The Idaho Principal Mentoring Pilot Project to principals in their first or second year. The Idaho Principal Mentoring Pilot Project will be led by Dennis Dunn and Dr. Gary Whiteley of Team Metis. The project will provide three professional development institutes during the school year focusing on essential skills needed by early career school leaders. In addition to the institutes, the project will provide skilled mentors who will participate in the training along with the new school leaders. The mentors will visit school leaders two to four times per year, provide bi-monthly telephone support, and virtual mentoring on implementation topics selected by each principal.

Focused mentor support for early career principals is an essential component for improving student learning. Frequent turn over in leadership is an impediment to sustained student and school performance. The Department strives to support early career school leaders and reduce the rate of turnover in school leadership. We invite you to assist us in supporting early career principals so their initial experience as a school leader is characterized by thriving rather than surviving.

For more information about the Idaho Principal Mentoring Pilot Project, please see the attached document or contact Tyson Carter, School Improvement/Educator Effectiveness Coordinator at [tcarter@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:tcarter@sde.idaho.gov) or 208-332-6917.

Respectfully yours,

Tyson Carter  
School Improvement/Educator Effectiveness Coordinator  
Idaho State Department of Education