

Idaho State Department of Education
Public Schools Strategic Plan
2010-2014

Vision Statement

To establish an innovative and flexible education system that focuses on results, inspires all students and prepares them to be successful in meeting today's challenges and tomorrow's opportunities.

Mission Statement

The Idaho State Department of Education is accountable for the success of all Idaho students. As leaders in education, we provide the expertise and technical assistance to promote educational excellence and highly effective instruction.

Indicators Of A High Quality Education System

- High student achievement
- Low dropout rate
- High percentage of students going on to post-secondary education
- Close achievement gap
- All decisions based on current accurate data
- Efficient use of all resources

Guiding Principles

- Every student can learn and must have a high quality teacher in every classroom.
- Market forces must drive necessary change.
- Current and new resources must focus on the classroom.

With these indicators and guiding principles as our focus, the Idaho State Department of Education will increase student achievement.

- Increase district and school capacity to establish and maintain a positive education climate, with emphasis on a safe learning environment, and the intellectual, physical, social and psychological well-being of every child.

- Continue efforts to remove barriers to teacher certification and provide support to those who want to enter the teaching profession.
- Increase dissemination of and accountability for research-based best practices in teacher preparation and provision of ongoing professional development that support student success.
- Continue efforts to provide increased pay for teachers in leadership and mentoring roles.
- Coordinate a statewide school improvement effort for those schools needing assistance to meet Adequate Yearly Progress goals.
- Increase the level of parental and community involvement in the education system by seeking partnerships with and feedback from all education stakeholders.
- Focus the statewide dropout prevention efforts of all education partners to reduce Idaho's dropout rate and increase graduation rates.
- Continue to support the establishment of public charter schools, public magnet schools and online educational opportunities to offer parents more quality choices in education for their children.
- Provide timely and relevant information, technical assistance and funding to Idaho's educators, schools, districts, students, parents, business leaders and the community, with a focus on excellent customer service.
- Increase efficiency of data collection procedures from school districts and public charter schools.
- Support efforts by school districts to consolidate services and streamline operations to make more efficient use of taxpayer funds and put more dollars into the classroom.

The State Department of Education partners with independent school districts to ensure all students receive an education that prepares students for successful post-secondary education, employment and life.

Goal 1: Ensure students have the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed from kindergarten to high school graduation and post-secondary education.

Objective 1. Improve student achievement at the middle school level.

Performance Measure: Create a Middle School Taskforce to craft recommendations to improve student achievement.

Benchmark: A proposal to increase student achievement in middle school will pass through Legislative rule in the 2010 Legislative session.

Objective 2: Improve access to post-secondary education while in high school.

Performance Measure: Create a Concurrent Credit Committee to evaluate current access to post-secondary education and recommend enhancement of opportunities.:

Benchmark: A proposal to increase concurrent credit opportunities will pass the Legislature in the 2010 Legislative session.

Goal 2: Ensure every teacher is highly qualified and is compensated for their results to improve student achievement.

Objective 1: Help teachers meet the criteria set forth by No Child Left Behind to be "highly qualified."

Performance Measure: Partner with school districts and utilize federal Title 2 funds to provide professional development opportunities to educators.

Benchmark: Every teacher in Idaho will be deemed as highly qualified.

Objective 2: Create a pay-for-performance system for teachers to reward them for skills, knowledge and student achievement results.

Performance Measure: Partner with educational stakeholders to enhance teacher compensation in Idaho.

Benchmark: Comment is sought on the plan and a pay for performance plan passes the Legislature.

Goal 3: Create a longitudinal data system where teachers, administrators and parents have accurate student achievement data for a child's educational career.

Objective 1: Create a unique student and teacher identifier for use statewide.

Performance Measure: Roll out a unique student identifier statewide.

Benchmark: Every student will have a unique student identifier.

Objective 2: Rewrite internal State Department data system known as IBEDS.

Performance Measure: Create a plan to rewrite IBEDS and work with a company known for their educational experience to rewrite code.

Benchmark: A company will be hired to rewrite IBEDS and will complete the rewrite by 2009.

Objective 3: Successfully develop a longitudinal data system.

Performance Measure: Create a system for entering and reviewing data for every student, school, and district in Idaho.

Benchmark: Every student, school, and district can review student achievement data over time.