

**Idaho State Department of Education**  
**Public Schools Strategic Plan**  
**2012-2016**

**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 Measures: Idaho Standards Achievement Tests grades 6 to 8.

Benchmark: Eighty percent of students in grades 6 to 8 will achieve proficiency on the ISAT in math, reading, language usage.

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

Performance Measures: Percentage of high schools offering dual credit.

Benchmark: Sixty percent of high schools offering dual credit.

Performance Measure: High Schools connected to the Idaho Education Network.

Benchmark: One hundred percent of high schools in Idaho connected to the Idaho Education Network by 2012.

**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: Number of teachers who are highly qualified.

Benchmark: One hundred percent of teachers in Idaho will be deemed as highly qualified.

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

Performance Measure: Number of districts implementing pay for performance.

Benchmark: Forty percent of schools implement pay for performance pilot.

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

*Objective 1: Deploy a longitudinal data system in alignment with the twelve data elements and seven capabilities of the America COMPETES act and ARRA SFSSF.*

Performance Measure: 12 elements of the American COMPETES Act.

Benchmark: Hundred percent of the America COMPETES Act implemented.

*Objective 2: Integrate budgeting and reporting applications into longitudinal data system.*

Performance Measure: Percentage of required budget and reporting applications obtained through longitudinal data system.

Benchmark: 100 percent of the budget and reporting applications implemented by 2012.

*Objective 3: Deliver student achievement data to the classroom for the individualization of instruction.*

Performance Measure: Student achievement information available to teachers via secure portal in every Idaho classroom for continuous improvement of instructional practices.

Benchmark: One-hundred percent of k-12 student information available by September 2012.