

For Immediate Release

September 4, 2013

IDAHOANS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION ANNOUNCES TWO NEW COALITION MEMBERS

The Idaho School Superintendents Association and the Gooding School District have joined a coalition of Idahoans in support of the Idaho Core Standards. That brings the Idahoans for Excellence in Education coalition to 20 members representing every corner of the state.

ISSA President and Preston School Superintendent Joel Wilson said: "While Idaho superintendents are extremely cautious about federal or state interference into the affairs of local school districts, the group believes that the Idaho Core Standards will provide students opportunities for deeper understanding of coursework and will lead students to become proficient critical thinkers. Idaho Core Standards will prepare students for success in post-secondary education or training and in the Idaho workforce."

Wilson said ISSA "has examined the issues surrounding the Idaho Core Standards and believes the standards will lead to better prepared students who will become stronger future leaders."

Heather Williams, Superintendent of the Gooding School District, said: "In the Gooding School District we are excited to implement the new Idaho Core Standards. The new standards are better aligned to college and career readiness and have been designed to provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn so they can be successful in college and the workforce."

The Idaho Core Standards raise the bar for what students learn in math and English. They leave curriculum development and lesson plans up to the local districts and teachers.

The Core Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010 after a series of public hearings around the state. They were approved by the Idaho Legislature in January 2011. The Governor's Task Force on Education last month voiced its support for the Idaho Core Standards. The Standards took effect at the beginning of this school year.

Idahoans for Excellence in Education was formed in July to ensure the successful implementation of the Idaho Core Standards. The other Coalition members are:

Idaho Business for Education, Idaho Education Association, Idaho Parents and Teachers Together, Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry, Idaho Leads, Idaho Voices for Children, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, Boise Metro Chamber of Commerce, Meridian Chamber of Commerce, Boise School District, Meridian Joint School

District, Emmett School District, Micron Technology, Idaho State Alliance of YMCA's, Treasure Valley Education Partnership, Idaho State Board of Education, the Presidents' Council (comprised of Idaho public university and college presidents), Idaho Digital Learning.

For more information contact: Rod Gramer, Idaho Business for Education, at 208-343-4883, Extension 143