

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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IDAHOANS FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Idahoans for Excellence in Education today announced that it has two new members, bringing to 22 the number of organizations that have joined the coalition to support the Idaho Core Standards.

The Catholic Schools of Idaho and the Idaho Charter School Network are the two newest groups to announce their support for the Idaho Core Standards, which raise the bar for what students learn in Math and English. The Standards help students prepare for the rigors of a post-secondary education.

Bob Sobotta, Superintendent of Idaho Catholic Schools, said: "Catholic schools in Idaho have a long-standing commitment to academic excellence that is rooted in the faith-based mission of Catholic education. While there is no mandate or requirement for Catholic schools to adopt the Idaho Core Standards, we believe they will enhance the educational programs at our schools and in no way compromise the Catholic identity of a Catholic school. Thus, we enthusiastically endorse the Idaho Core Standards and are happy to join the Idahoans for Excellence in Education coalition."

Rich Raimondi, President of Bishop Kelly High School in Boise, said: "The Idaho Core Standards establish consistent learning goals for all students that focus on preparing them to succeed in college and careers in a globally competitive workplace. The standards place emphasis on creativity, critical and analytical thinking and application to curriculum content. We at Bishop Kelly, together with our 13 Catholic elementary schools around the state, will then infuse the Idaho Core Standards with the faith, principles, values and social justice themes inherent in the mission of a Catholic school."

Terry Ryan, President of the Idaho Charter School Network, said: "Charter schools in Idaho provide an important choice for more than 18,000 students currently enrolled in one of the state's 44 charter schools. These students, like all public school students in Idaho, benefit when their education is geared towards high academic standards. The Idaho Core Standards rightly demand more of students and schools. The Idaho Charter School Network is happy to support these higher standards and looks forward to helping charter schools and their students meet and exceed these new standards in the coming years."

Idaho Business for Education President Rod Gramer said: "We are pleased that the Catholic Schools of Idaho and the Idaho Charter School Network are joining our coalition to support the

successful implementation of the Idaho Core Standards. Their support shows that Idaho parents and educators from all across the state and from diverse backgrounds believe these standards will help our young people become successful academically, professionally and in life.”

Here is a complete list of all the organizations that have joined Idahoans for Excellence in Education:

Idaho Business for Education

Idaho Education Association

Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry

Idaho School Superintendents’ Association

Idaho Parents and Teachers Together

Treasure Valley Education Partnership

Emmett School District

Meridian Joint School District

Boise School District

Gooding School District

Idaho Charter School Network

Catholic Schools of Idaho

Idaho State Alliance of YMCAs

Idaho Digital Learning

Micron Technology

Idaho Leads

Idaho Voices for Children

Meridian Chamber of Commerce

Boise Chamber of Commerce

Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children

Idaho State Board of Education

J. Anthony Fernandez, President, Lewis Clark State College

Donald L. Burnett, Jr., President, University of Idaho

Robert W. Kustra, President, Boise State University

Arthur Vailas, President, Idaho State University

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