



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TRANSMITTAL # 5

MEMORANDUM

November 18, 2010

TO: Workforce Development Council

FROM: Luci Willits, Member

SUBJECT: Adoption of Common Core Standards in English Language Arts, Math

ACTION REQUESTED: To support State Department efforts to adopt increased standards in English and math

BACKGROUND:

Common Core Standards in math and English across states was a joint effort between the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and the National Governors Association (NGA). The goal of the work was to ensure that students graduating from high school are college and career ready. The development team vowed to make the standards clearer, higher, and fewer. Idaho joined this effort in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and Superintendent Tom Luna. The standards were reviewed by national experts and Idaho teachers.

The State Department of Education has conducted extensive outreach across the state including two statewide information tours in June and September. State Department of Education staff conducted six hearings across the state, in addition, to gathering written comments.

The State Board is scheduled to consider the standards for a final time during its November meeting. If approved, the standards will go to the Legislature in January.

To date, 38 states and two territories have approved common core standards. Idaho is also a governing state in a consortium of states that will create an assessment to replace the current Idaho Standards Achievement Tests (ISAT). This test will allow states to compare results.

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