

March 10, 2004

STATE BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED IN BOISE INCLUDES WICHE CELEBRATION, LEP COMMITTEE MEETING

BOISE - The Idaho State Board of Education will meet March 11 and March 12 at Boise State University. As part of the meeting, the Board will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE), discuss student fees for the 2004 to 2005 school year and hold the second limited English proficient subcommittee meeting.

Prior to the meetings, the State Board will celebrate the 50th anniversary of WICHE Wednesday, March 10 at a reception held at 5 p.m. in the Joe R. Williams Building East Conference Room at 700 West State Street in Boise.

State Board meetings will be held at Boise State University SUB, Lookout room starting with an executive session at 8 a.m. Thursday morning. Following the executive session, the Board will also hear presentations from:

- Dan Harpole from the Idaho Commission on the Arts on its arts in education program.
- Office of Performance Evaluation on school district administration and oversight.

The Board will also:

- Review reinstating the Direct Writing Assessment in 11th grade. In 1996, Board rules were rewritten and new assessments were placed into rule that eliminated the direct writing test. The Idaho Council of Teachers in English is petitioning the Board to reinstate the direct writing assessment as a high school requirement.
- Readopt the alternative teacher certification temporary rules.

Friday, the State Board meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at Boise State University and will hear student fee increase proposals from Idaho State University, University of Idaho and Lewis-Clark State College. The Board will also receive an update on the University of Idaho Water Center leasing, operations and maintenance contract.

After the State Board meetings, the limited English proficient subcommittee will meet at 1 p.m. in the Lookout room as well. Members of this committee include community members as well as State Board members Blake Hall, Rod Lewis, Paul Agidius and Dr. Marilyn Howard. The subcommittee will review Limited English Proficient standards and the process used to create them and discuss successful programs in Idaho with presentations from the Boise and the Burley School Districts.