

June 26, 2007

ISAT SCORES RELEASED

BOISE— Scores for the Spring 2007 ISAT (Idaho Student Achievement Test) have been released to the public today by the Idaho State Board of Education. The scores give parents, educators a twice-yearly update on academic progress in several key areas: math, reading, language usage and science.

The test was given to nearly 98% of all Idaho school children between grades 2 & 10, more than 600,000 tests statewide.

"We're pleased that our test is solidly aligned to Idaho standards but concerned about the AYP." said Board President Milford Terrell

Some districts experienced a drop in test scores, particularly in language usage. "I think it's mainly due to the change in the test," said Margo Healy, ISAT Program Manager for the State Board. "The test is more rigorous because it's now aligned to Idaho standards. You can't underestimate that." Healy continued, "And don't minimize the fact that Idaho teachers set the skill level for cut scores. This is Idaho teachers saying what they believe Idaho students should know. That's a valuable component," said Healy.

It is important to keep in mind these scores are preliminary and not the final version which will be used to calculate AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress). AYP is a requirement under the federal law known as No Child Left Behind, under which Idaho operates. The State Board of Education will release its AYP determinations in early July 2007.

Complete test results can be found by logging on to www.boardofed.idaho.gov then clicking on the ISAT icon near the top third of the page, just below the Board photo.