



IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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BOARD APPROVES LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT CAREER LADDER

(Boise). The Board today unanimously approved legislation to implement a career ladder that would significantly increase funds for teachers' salaries. *"The career ladder represents a major step forward in how Idaho pays teachers,"* said Board President Emma Atchley. *"Idaho public school salaries would become more competitive with other states and the private sector. We believe this plan will be crucial in attracting and retaining great teachers and will significantly improve the quality of education for our students."*

The proposed legislation seeks to increase teacher funding from \$31,750 to \$40,000 for beginning teachers and from \$47,000 to \$58,000 for those at the top level. If approved by lawmakers, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, all districts in Idaho would receive a higher salary appropriation for each teacher currently holding a certificate as well as for new teachers entering the profession. The legislation approved by the Board also includes compensation increases for teachers who attain higher levels of education.

Richard Westerberg, Chair of the Task Force for Improving Education, said, *"The need and time for higher salaries is now. The plan provides for robust, effective and meaningful teacher mentoring programs and would allow districts to reward their best teachers."*

At today's meeting, the Board reiterated its intent to create an implementation review committee to monitor the implementation of both the career ladder and the new teacher certification rule approved by the Board in November. Both the pending rule on certification and the career ladder legislation will be considered in the 2015 legislative session. To learn more about the work and recommendations of the Task Force Implementation Committees, visit the Board's website at www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

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