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STATE BOARD APPROVES MASTER TEACHER PREMIUM CRITERIA

(Boise). The Idaho State Board of Education approved the Master Teacher Premium criteria. The Master Teacher Premium, included in the Career Ladder legislation that passed in 2015, is a salary premium to recognize and financially reward outstanding teachers in Idaho.

“The Master Teacher Premium is an important feature of the Career Ladder by providing additional funding to Idaho teachers identified by their peers as being exemplary day-in and day-out,” said Don Soltman, President of the Idaho State Board of Education.

To be eligible for the Premium, teachers must meet certain minimum requirements, as well as show evidence of mastery of instructional techniques and professional practices. Evidence may be shown through a process established by the State Board of Education or a locally established process approved by the State Board. Those teachers recognized as Master Teachers will earn an additional \$4,000 per year for three years. Following the initial three-year period, teachers are eligible to receive the Premium on an annual basis based on continued eligibility.

A committee of teachers, administrators and school board members was charged by the Board in June 2015 to develop the criteria and process for identifying a Master Teacher. The committee recommended that evidence of mastery be demonstrated through the submittal of a portfolio, which would consist of a collection of evidence of exemplary teaching practices within five standards: Leadership; Professional Collaboration and Partnerships; Students and Learning Environment; Content, Instruction and Assessment; and Professional Growth.

Teachers will submit their portfolios to the State Board for review by fellow Idaho educators. Those teachers identified as a Master Teacher by the review panel will receive the premium. There is no cap on the number teachers that can be identified as a Master Teacher.

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The first premiums will be paid during the 2019-20 school year. State law requires that the Master Teacher designation is to be based in part on a teacher's mastery (as shown in the portfolio) in the three school years prior to designation as a Master Teacher.

“Adoption of the state plan provides guidance to districts on what is considered an acceptable level of rigor if they choose to develop their own plan and lets teachers know what they should start collecting in the 2016-2017 school year if they are interested in submitting a portfolio prior to the July 1, 2019 effective date of the Master Teacher Premium,” said Matt Freeman, Executive Director of the State Board of Education.

It is intended that the portfolios of teachers designated as Master Teachers will be available for review as examples of outstanding teaching for other teachers to use to enhance their own practices.

The State Board of Education is charged with the general supervision and governance of the public educational institutions and the public school system of the State of Idaho. To learn more about the Idaho State Board of Education, please visit www.boardofed.idaho.gov.

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