



## IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### **STATE BOARD COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP NEW ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM FOR IDAHO PUBLIC EDUCATION**

(Boise). The Idaho State Board of Education has charged its Accountability Oversight Committee to develop a new, comprehensive accountability system for Idaho's public schools. The new plan is being developed in response to the expanded state and local autonomy in public education that has been granted by passage of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The new statewide accountability system will measure educational progress among public school districts, individual public schools and public charter schools throughout the state. The role of the current Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) developed by Smarter Balanced will also be reviewed to consider when and how the state's current standardized test should be administered to students and used as a measure of their academic achievement, in addition to being an indicator for school accountability.

"This is an opportunity for Idaho to develop a new accountability system that allows us to review school progress based on state needs and priorities," said Debbie Critchfield, member of the Idaho State Board of Education and its Accountability Oversight Committee. "The federal government's role in education is reduced under the new law, and we now have more flexibility to develop a system that assesses academic progress, with multiple indicators, and directs resources to districts that need additional support," Critchfield continued.

Under ESSA, states must have an accountability system in place for the 2017-18 school year. By developing an accountability system now, the Board can test it during the 2016-17 school year, allowing school districts to provide feedback before full implementation. The Committee will deliver a progress report to the Board at its meeting next month, followed by a draft of the system at the June Board meeting and a roll-out to school districts in August. Input from education stakeholder groups and the public will be solicited during development and testing of the system.

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“This is an aggressive timeline that will provide us an opportunity to test the new accountability system with school districts next school year,” said Critchfield.

The state’s current accountability system, referred to as the Five Star Rating System, was developed in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act and was last used to review Idaho public school academic progress in 2013.

The State Board of Education is charged with the general supervision, governance and control 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](http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov).

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