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STATE BOARD PRESIDENT EMMA ATCHLEY ADDRESSES TEACHER EVALUATION AUDIT FINDINGS

(Boise). Idaho State Board of Education President Emma Atchley announced today that the State Board of Education will address the findings of a recently released audit commissioned by the Idaho State Department of Education to examine the fidelity of public school teacher evaluations conducted school administrators across the state.

Atchley stated:

The Idaho State Board of Education will review the findings of the recently released audit commissioned by the Idaho State Department of Education to examine how evaluations of our public school teachers were conducted and reported by local school district administrators.

An annual audit of teacher evaluations is required by the Career Ladder legislation, which was passed in 2015. The Career Ladder legislation dictates the amount of state funding provided annually to local school districts to pay for teacher salaries. The amount of state funding provided per teacher is based on performance as examined through a professional teacher evaluation conducted by school administrators. Since 2013, administrators have had opportunities for training on the evaluation process. The audit raises serious concerns regarding the teacher evaluation process conducted during the 2014-2015 school year.

Earlier this year, the Idaho legislature tasked the State Board with responsibility for auditing teacher evaluations. The State Board takes this function very seriously because the allocation of state funding for teacher salaries is directly linked to the evaluations administrators complete and report. The State Board's audit of 2015-2016 teacher evaluations is already underway, and directions from the Board to school districts will be communicated in the near future. In October and as part of the process, the State Board passed an administrative rule requiring specific evaluation and student performance data to be reported by districts in order for a teacher to advance along the Career Ladder.

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At its regularly scheduled meeting next week (December 15th), the State Board will take the opportunity to identify steps to be taken at both the state and district levels to ensure evaluations are completed and reported accurately and in accordance with state law including administrative rule. As a Board, we will tackle issues, including but not limited to,

- *Do school district administrators have adequate training in conducting teacher evaluations and reporting the findings to the state?*
- *Is there clear direction to administrators regarding when to conduct and report the evaluations?*
- *Do administrators receive feedback regarding whether their evaluations and the subsequent reporting meet the requirements of state law and administrative rule?*

There are opportunities to use findings from the audit to improve the teacher evaluation process at the state and local level and ensure state funds are used consistent with legislative intent. All State Board members take the fiduciary responsibility entrusted by the Legislature very seriously, and we all have an expectation of improvement in how the teacher evaluation process is conducted. The State Board has demonstrated this through its direct distribution and oversight of hundreds of millions of dollars in other areas of education. The same diligence will be extended to teacher evaluations and the resulting salary apportionment.

The agenda, meeting materials and a link to live streaming will be available on the Board's website in advance of the meeting.

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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