



## IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### **IDAHO STATE BOARD WAIVES TWO ISAT REQUIREMENTS**

(Lewiston). The State Board of Education voted today to waive two requirements regarding the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). The first waiver removes the requirement that the high school class of 2018 score proficient or advanced on the ISAT to be eligible for high school graduation. The second waiver removes the requirement that the ISAT be administered to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students during the 2015-16 school year, making it optional for school districts to administer the test. Both waivers were proposed by Sherri Ybarra, Idaho State Superintendent of Public Instruction and member of the Idaho State Board of Education.

Currently, Idaho high school students must score proficient or advanced on the 10<sup>th</sup> grade version of the ISAT. The class of 2018 is scheduled to take the test this spring as 10<sup>th</sup> graders. Students scoring below proficient can re-take the test or complete alternate requirements to prove they have mastered Idaho's math and English standards for high school graduates.

The current version of the ISAT was field tested statewide during the 2014-15 school year. These scores have provided a baseline for measuring student achievement in Idaho. The ISAT will be administered again this spring, which will provide State Board members with an opportunity to see how students and teachers have adapted to the new test and improved performance.

Given the relative newness of the test, the Board voted to waive the proficiency requirement for high school graduation. Students will still need to take the 10<sup>th</sup> grade ISAT test for the state to comply with federal education requirements. The high school graduating class of 2018 is the second consecutive class to have the ISAT proficiency score waived as a graduation requirement during the implementation of the new assessment.

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Under current Idaho requirements, the ISAT is to be administered to both 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students. However, today's second vote by the State Board waived the requirement that the ISAT be administered to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students for the 2015-16 school year. Federal law requires a standardized test aligned with the state math and English standards to be administered at least once to students while in high school. The Board's action is in compliance with the minimum federal requirements. Idaho school districts still have an option to administer the test to 9<sup>th</sup> grade students.

"I was happy to see these waivers passed by the Board this afternoon. This action supports what school districts were asking for and is reflective of our collaborative process, and I commend the State Board for their support this afternoon," said Superintendent Ybarra.

"It is very important to the Board that we have a test for accountability purposes that provides an accurate assessment of how well our students are learning in Idaho," said Don Soltman, President of the Idaho State Board of Education. "The Board will continue to review our State's requirements regarding the ISAT and student performance in our future meetings."

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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