



## IDAHO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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## **STATE BOARD ENDORSES GOVERNOR OTTER'S EDUCATION BUDGET AND INITIATIVES**

(Boise). The Idaho State Board of Education unanimously voted today to endorse the education budget and initiatives outlined by Idaho Governor C.L. “Butch” Otter during his State of the State address this afternoon.

“Today, Governor Otter outlined education initiatives to build-out a kindergarten to career education system that empowers Idaho students with the knowledge, skills and abilities to enter the workforce, be successful and grow our state,” said Don Soltman, President of the Idaho State Board of Education. “The goal of the State Board of Education is for every Idahoan age 25 to 34 to have a postsecondary certificate or degree by the year 2020, and Governor Otter’s proposal will help make that goal a reality.”

Governor Otter’s education proposals continued a focus on the recommendations of the Governor’s Task Force for Improving Education. Task force recommendations highlighted include, but are not limited to:

- An additional \$30 million for school district operational funding, which will restore state funding school districts lost in the Great Recession.
- A \$10.7 million investment in reading programs to help struggling readers in kindergarten through third grade.
- A \$38 million dollar increase in state funding for teacher salaries through year two implementation of the Career Ladder.

In his speech today, Governor Otter also highlighted proposals to support Idahoans in completing a postsecondary education. The proposed tuition lock will freeze Idaho public, four-year university and college tuition at first-year rates for up to four years for students pursuing a degree.

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The Governor also proposed an additional \$5 million for the Opportunity Scholarship, which is the state's premiere college scholarship. The additional funding would bring the annual total available scholarship funds to \$10 million. Governor Otter also unveiled a proposed Completion Scholarship to encourage Idahoans who previously attended and left college to return to finish their degrees.

“The Board is very supportive of Governor Otter’s focus on higher education to complement our ongoing investment in elementary and secondary education,” Soltman continued. “An intentional focus on a strong education system, kindergarten through career, is critical to reaching our 60% goal.”

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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