IDAHO EDNEWS:
WE ARE A NONPROFIT NEWS SOURCE THAT PROVIDES STATEWIDE AWARENESS OF CRITICAL ISSUES THAT AFFECT IDAHO’S CHILDREN AND THEIR FUTURE.

We are independent. We take no positions on how to achieve better schools. And our funders have no influence on our editorial decisions.

We are award-winning journalists. We dig into the data and shine a light on the truth.

We demand transparency. We hold leaders and educators accountable for taxpayer dollars and student achievement.
Why this matters

Idahoans need accurate news and data about education more than ever before because:

Idahoans rank education as their No. 1 priority, ahead of the economy and the environment, according to recent surveys.

Still, Idaho student achievement has stagnated and lags behind national indicators of performance and success.

The information in this book will help you make data-based decisions to improve public education.

Jennifer Swindell,
Managing Editor of Idaho Education News

PLEASE NOTE:

This is the third and best edition of Idaho EdTrends. We've refined and enhanced the content and design based on feedback.

For more details, go to IdahoEdNews.org. For much more data, go to IdahoEdTrends.org.

This is the most recent and publicly available data on all Idaho K-12 public traditional and charter schools.

Some school results are redacted in compliance with Idaho's student privacy law.
WE CREATED THIS BOOK TO HELP YOU BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW IDAHO EDUCATES 312,000 KIDS AND SPENDS MORE THAN $2 BILLION IN TAXPAYER DOLLARS PER YEAR.
What’s inside

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STATEWIDE ENROLLMENT INCREASES EVERY YEAR, BUT INCREASES DON’T HAPPEN IN EVERY DISTRICT.

Caldwell lost 269 students this year. Payette lost 162 and Boise lost 82.
Idaho’s K-12 public schools continue to add thousands of students every year. The latest fall enrollment tally: 312,000 — up about 4,700 students or 1.6 percent from a year earlier.

Enrollment matters because it’s tied to how Idaho carves up about $2 billion in state K-12 funding. The state has used an average-daily-attendance metric since 1994. But lawmakers have spent the past few years studying the arcane formula and debating ways to replace it with an enrollment-based model.

So which is the fastest growing district?

You probably wouldn’t guess this, but it’s Oneida, a tiny and remote district headquartered in Malad, a town of only 2,000 residents near the Utah border. About 2,500 students have joined the district in the past four years, far exceeding growth at any other district or charter in Idaho. Oneida this year added 1,011 new students, a 42 percent hike from a year earlier. By comparison, Idaho’s largest district, 40,291-student West Ada, added 784 kids the same year. Oneida has grown faster than East Idaho’s four largest and growing school districts — Bonneville, Pocatello-Chubbuck, Idaho Falls and Jefferson County — combined.

Oneida’s growth is fueled by its online learning program that serves students from cities as far away as Coeur d’Alene, Twin Falls and Payette. Oneida’s increase in enrollment comes with millions in state funding.
ENROLLMENT

Student Enrollment Over Time

Average annual enrollment growth in Idaho’s public schools over the past 15 years.

+ 1.3%
Idaho’s Enrollment Reaches Record Number

Idaho’s largest minority is Latino and the number of Latino students in Idaho schools has nearly doubled in the past two decades, rising to over 18 percent of public school enrollment.

But Latino student achievement in Idaho consistently lags behind state averages as evidenced by low average test scores among Latinos, few postsecondary degrees among Latino adults and a significant achievement gap between white and Latino youth.

Experts say improving Latino student outcomes is an urgent need, especially as Latino students graduate from Idaho’s schools and join the state’s workforce.

“If these students are not successful, then Idaho is not going to be successful,” said Rod Gramer, CEO of Idaho Business for Education.

Priscilla Salant, former director of the McClure Center for Public Policy Research, said state trends suggest Hispanic Idahoans participate in the workforce at higher rates than non-Hispanics. And Idaho’s jobs of the future, Gramer said, will overwhelmingly require some sort of degree or credential.
Idaho Is Expected to Get More Public Charter Schools

Charter schools continue to pop up all over Idaho, operating in areas as urban as Boise and as rural as Salmon. And with no cap to their growth, debate swirls around their expansion, funding and oversight.

Charter growth is expected to continue and likely at an accelerated rate backed by millions in federal and private grants. Idaho recently was awarded a $22 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to increase the number of charter school seats by 8,200 students. With thousands on waitlists, charter school leaders are hoping their schools become more diverse and serve more minority students, those with special needs and those who live in Idaho’s remote communities.

Idaho’s first public charter opened its doors 22 years ago with 168 kids. Today, more than 25,000 kids and their families have made the choice to move from the neighborhood school to a public charter school.

Charter School Growth Over Time

![Chart showing charter school growth over time from 2016 to 2020. The number of charter schools in Idaho increased from 48 in 2016 to 68 in 2020.]
Public charter schools — funded with public dollars — tout a range of educational niches, from college prep and the arts to science, medicine and online learning.

Charter schools are absorbing about one third of the state’s K-12 yearly growth and now account for 8 percent of the student population. If all of Idaho’s charters were a single school district, it would be Idaho’s third largest behind West Ada and Boise districts.
AVERAGE PAY:

$52,000  
TEACHERS

$92,000  
PRINCIPALS

$110,000  
SUPERINTENDENTS

AT MINIMUM, EVERY TEACHER IN IDAHO WILL MAKE $40,000 IN THE FALL OF 2020.
Budgets and Salaries

Idaho’s economy has been on fire recently and K-12 public education has been the major beneficiary.

Lawmakers have increased state funding to K-12 public education by more than $100 million in each of the past five years. The education budget has grown at a faster rate than the overall state budget.

Teachers and administrators have been rewarded with five consecutive years of raises. Veteran teachers were eligible for bonuses and starting teacher pay will be increased to $40,000.

An economic slowdown may be on the horizon, which is why Gov. Brad Little asked state agencies to reduce two years of budgets. Higher education was asked to reduce two years of budgets and freeze tuition.

But because Little’s No. 1 priority is education, he exempted K-12 schools from budget cuts and supports additional funding and raises for veteran teachers.
BUDGETS

Idaho’s 2019-2020 General Fund Budget

K-12 public education receives 49 percent — or half — of state tax collections. The amount jumps to 63 percent when higher education is included.

General Fund Budget Over Time

IN BILLIONS

\[
\begin{array}{c|c|c|c|c}
\text{'16} & \text{'17} & \text{'18} & \text{'19} & \text{'20} \\
\hline
3 B & $3,071,860,500 & $3,277,800,000 & $3,450,800,000 & $3,723,741,800 \\
3.5 B & $ & $ & $ & $ \\
4 B & $ & $ & $ & $4,000,859,000 \\
\end{array}
\]

State Budget +22%
About 64 percent of the K-12 public schools' budget is for salaries and benefits.

K-12 Public Schools Budget Growth Over Time

The state budget grew by 22 percent and the public schools budget grew by 26 percent during the last four-year period.
Local Voters Continue to Support Their Schools

Idaho's supplemental school tax levy bill set another record in 2019-20 — and has increased by nearly $100 million over the past decade.

Idaho property owners will pay out nearly $214 million in supplemental tax levies this year — setting another record, for the fourth successive school year.

The supplemental tax levy bill was $202.2 million a year ago.

And this year, as in previous years, the vast majority of Idaho's 115 school districts will rely on supplemental levies. This year, 92 districts will collect a levy — from $20 million in Coeur d'Alene to $75,000 in Mackay. A year ago, 93 districts collected a levy.

District officials and trustees have long maintained that voter-approved levies are no longer “supplemental.” Instead, they say, the funding is needed to fill in budget gaps and pay for essential needs, such as staff salaries and benefits, classroom computers and school safety upgrades.

Either way, the levy bill has only grown over time — even after the recession, and despite state budgets that have increased K-12 spending by $100 million a year for the past five years.

Districts With Highest Levy Rates
*Per $100,000 taxable value

- Mullen: $772
- Moscow: $705
- Troy: $703
- Rockland: $684
- Kendrick: $668
- Wallace: $660
- Aberdeen: $647
- Lewiston: $634
- Potlatch: $613
- Richfield: $604
Local Property Taxes for K-12 Public Education

State, Local & Federal Funds Combined

*The total property tax burden is all local tax levies: supplemental levies, general obligation bonds and tort, plant facility and emergency levies.
SALARIES

Teacher Pay Has Been on a Five-Year Rise

The five-year law aimed at boosting teacher pay in Idaho has helped push average statewide salaries to $52,000.

The average statewide salary is up $7,486, or nearly 17 percent, over the past five years when average salaries were $44,205.

The pay hikes have garnered sturdy support in the Statehouse, sailing through the Legislature every year.

Here’s the 2019-2020 School-Year Investment:

- $49.7 million to pay for the fifth consecutive year of educator raises.
- $7.3 million to give school administrators a 3 percent raise.
- $7.2 million to pay for master teacher premiums.

Idaho administrators — superintendents and principals — typically are contracted to work 210-240 days. Teachers are contracted to work, on average, 180 days. Idaho students are in class about 160 days. The difference (20 days) is typically for teacher training, sick days, personal days and teacher preparation days.
Average Salaries in Some of The State’s Largest Districts:

West Ada, Idaho’s largest district, increased salaries from $46,416 in 2014-15 to $53,099 this school year, a 14.4 percent jump.

Average salaries in the Boise district rose from $51,649 in 2014-15 to $61,407 in 2019-20, a nearly 19 percent increase.

Bonneville, East Idaho’s largest school district, increased salaries from $40,165 to $48,128, an almost 20 percent increase.

Salaries in the Coeur d’Alene district jumped from $49,559 in 2014-15 to $56,943 this year, a 14.9 percent hike.

The Blaine County School District topped the average salary tally five years ago, at $71,646. The district’s $74,981 still leads the pack.

About 94 percent of Idaho’s veteran teachers who applied for master teacher premiums — bonuses — received them. The state considered 1,397 applications and approved 1,307 of them. The three-year renewable awards are worth $12,000.
## SALARIES

### Top Administrators (2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contract salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blaine County</td>
<td>GwenCarol Holmes</td>
<td>$180,208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>Coby Dennis</td>
<td>$177,395</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Ada</td>
<td>Mary Ann Ranells</td>
<td>$177,021</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coeur d’Alene</td>
<td>Steven Cook</td>
<td>$160,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell</td>
<td>N. Shalene French</td>
<td>$158,018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Pend Oreille</td>
<td>Tom Albertson</td>
<td>$155,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonneville</td>
<td>Scott Woolstenhulme</td>
<td>$155,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blaine County</td>
<td>Angela Martinez</td>
<td>$154,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>Lisa Roberts</td>
<td>$153,060</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nampa</td>
<td>Paula Kellerer</td>
<td>$152,967</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vallivue</td>
<td>Pat Charlton</td>
<td>$150,447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Idaho Falls</td>
<td>George Boland</td>
<td>$149,811</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Idaho Stem Charter</td>
<td>Scott Thompson</td>
<td>$148,820</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor Brad Little</td>
<td></td>
<td>$138,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Superintendent of Schools</td>
<td>Sherri Ybarra</td>
<td>$117,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho Average Teacher Salary</td>
<td></td>
<td>$51,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highest Average Blaine County</td>
<td></td>
<td>$74,981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The national average salary for school superintendents and administrators is $154,000. The national average salary for school principals is about $100,000.
Administrator Salaries' Growth Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Average Administrator Salaries</th>
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<tr>
<td>'16-'17</td>
<td>$86,953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'17-'18</td>
<td>$88,867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'18-'19</td>
<td>$92,362</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'19-'20</td>
<td>$95,143</td>
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From Idaho's Largest Districts

Top 10 Avg. Administrator Salaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lewiston</td>
<td>$98,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonneville</td>
<td>$97,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>$96,146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>$94,857</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Falls</td>
<td>$94,545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lakeland</td>
<td>$94,121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Ada</td>
<td>$93,791</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocatello</td>
<td>$93,464</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho Falls</td>
<td>$92,561</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caldwell</td>
<td>$88,503</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Bottom 10 Avg. Administrator Salaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Salary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coeur d'Alene</td>
<td>$87,962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vallivue</td>
<td>$86,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middleton</td>
<td>$86,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Falls</td>
<td>$85,304</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison</td>
<td>$84,619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nampa</td>
<td>$84,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minidoka</td>
<td>$80,972</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cassia County</td>
<td>$80,055</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerome</td>
<td>$74,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kuna</td>
<td>$72,983</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
80 PERCENT OF IDAHO STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM HIGH SCHOOL. LESS THAN HALF OF THEM GO ON TO SOME FORM OF HIGHER EDUCATION OR FORMAL TRAINING.
Student Achievement

Idaho begins testing children when they enter kindergarten and continues testing them into high school.

Children in kindergarten and first, second and third grades take the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI). The newest IRI test launched in 2018-19 and it provides data on vocabulary, comprehension and fluency to gauge a student's reading skills. Children take the test in the fall and again in the spring to measure growth. Reading scores have been stagnant over the years.

Children in grades 3-8 and 10 take the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in the spring. This online test is aligned to state academic standards. According to the spring 2019 results, Idaho students are getting more proficient in the core subjects of math and language arts. But the results do not reach the benchmark scores the state hoped to meet, as per its plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

All Idaho teens are required to take a college entrance exam in order to graduate. There is no score requirement. More than 95 percent of Idaho teens take the SAT because it’s provided free at taxpayer expense of about $1 million.

Idaho also measures:

· high school graduation rates,
· the rate at which young adults continue their education beyond high school,
· and the percentage of young adults who own some form of post-secondary degree or certificate.

The statewide results of these tests and measures are in this section. For your district or school results in these measures, visit IdahoEdTrends.org.
STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Spring Reading Scores

Kindergarten and 1st, 2nd and 3rd Grades Combined

- 2017: 27% Not Reading at Grade Level, 73% Reading at Grade Level
- 2018: 28% Not Reading at Grade Level, 72% Reading at Grade Level
- 2019: 30% Not Reading at Grade Level, 70% Reading at Grade Level

3rd Grade

- 2017: 27% Not Reading at Grade Level, 73% Reading at Grade Level
- 2018: 25% Not Reading at Grade Level, 75% Reading at Grade Level
- 2019: 26% Not Reading at Grade Level, 74% Reading at Grade Level

Idaho’s Best Reading Scores (percentage reading at grade level)

- Vision Charter: 94%
- Falcon Ridge Public Charter: 92.7%
- Rolling Hills Charter: 92.2%
- North Idaho Stem Charter: 91.2%
- Taylor’s Crossing Public Charter: 90.7%
- North Star Charter: 89.4%
- Nezperce: 87%
- Cottonwood: 86.7%
- Compass Public Charter: 85.8%
- Xavier Charter: 85.8%
**Spring Reading Scores in Kindergarten**

Last spring, kindergarten scores were lower than the scores for first-, second- and third-graders on Idaho’s literacy test.

Only 64 percent of kindergartners ended the year with grade-level reading skills. That’s concerning to state leaders.

Gov. Brad Little says early literacy is the key to improving everything else in Idaho’s education system. He has convinced lawmakers to fund a $26 million state literacy program — so the state’s spending a lot of new money to teach kindergartners to read. Many schools are using their share of the literacy money to fund full-day kindergarten. At some point — probably sooner rather than later — lawmakers will expect answers about what’s happening in kindergarten.

**Kindergarten Reading Scores 2019**

- **64%** Reading at Grade Level
- **36%** Not Reading at Grade Level

Nearly 26,000 K-3 students left school last spring with below-grade-level reading skills.
### ISAT English Language Arts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent of students not proficient</th>
<th>Percent of students proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>48.9%</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>47.1%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>54.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>55.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ISAT Math

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent of students not proficient</th>
<th>Percent of students proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>60.7%</td>
<td>39.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>58.2%</td>
<td>41.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>55.5%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### ISAT Science

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent of students not proficient</th>
<th>Percent of students proficient</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>38.3%</td>
<td>61.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
<td>61.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>40.4%</td>
<td>59.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Idaho students are getting more proficient on core subjects math and English language arts. But those scores, while up from years past, do not reach the benchmark scores the state hoped to meet in 2019, as per its plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act. The 2019 target for math was 51.3 percent and ELA proficiency was 60.8.

Math scores steadily dropped as students made their way through the K-12 system. While 53 percent of third-graders scored advanced or proficient in math, only 33.4 percent of high school students met that mark. Conversely, ELA scores generally improved over time, with 59.1 percent of high school students scoring advanced or proficient. The science scores dropped.

**The Numbers for Idaho’s 10 Largest School Districts**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>ELA</th>
<th>Math</th>
<th>Science</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>West Ada</td>
<td>68.6%</td>
<td>59.5%</td>
<td>73.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boise</td>
<td>58.0%</td>
<td>47.4%</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nampa</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
<td>38.6%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bonneville</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
<td>44.5%</td>
<td>60.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pocatello</td>
<td>59.8%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coeur d'Alene</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
<td>50.9%</td>
<td>63.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Idaho Falls</td>
<td>49.9%</td>
<td>38.9%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twin Falls</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
<td>57.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vallivue</td>
<td>58.5%</td>
<td>44.4%</td>
<td>56.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>52.8%</td>
<td>50.3%</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Statewide</strong></td>
<td><strong>55.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>45.1%</strong></td>
<td><strong>59.6%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The ISAT is delivered to all students in grades 3-8 and grade 10. Federal law requires at least 95 percent of students be given the exam. *Idaho has seen no significant growth on its standardized test and most students perform below standards in math.*
NATIONAL COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM: SAT

Graduating Class of 2019

Idaho’s class of 2019 was slightly less prepared for college and the workforce than graduates from the previous year.

SAT data released by The College Board shows Idaho’s most recent group of seniors scored lower overall, and met fewer college readiness benchmarks than the class of 2018. While the numbers dipped only slightly, they mark the second year in a row of declining performance on the test.

Seniors graduating in 2019 had an average composite score of 993 out of 1600 possible points on the SAT. That’s eight points down from the year before. The slight dip follows a national trend. The U.S. average was 1059 points in 2019, down nine points from the 2018 average.

While the Idaho test results don’t show a massive shift in college readiness, they also don’t show signs of improvement as Idaho struggles to increase the number of students continuing their education beyond high school.

Some 58 percent of 2019 graduates met the college and career readiness benchmark in reading and writing, compared with 60 percent in 2018.

Some 34 percent of 2019 graduates met the math benchmark, down one percentage point from 2018.

About 32 percent of students met benchmarks in both math and language sections, down from 33 percent the year before.

And 40 percent of students met neither benchmark, up from 38 percent in 2018.

The SAT is an important test to education leaders. Seniors have to take a college placement test in order to graduate from high school. Taxpayers invest about $1 million a year to pay for all juniors to take the test.

Students are considered college- and career-ready when their SAT scores meet both the math (530) and the evidence-based reading and writing (480) benchmarks. Most Idaho students fail to meet both benchmarks.
SAT Composite Scores

Highest Score Possible

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>IDAHO</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
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Percentage Meeting Benchmarks

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<td>'17</td>
<td>'18</td>
<td>'19</td>
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<td></td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>49%</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>'17</td>
<td>'18</td>
<td>'19</td>
<td>'17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>63%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>70%</td>
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</table>
In the above comparison, at least 95 percent of the juniors in these states took the SAT. The key metrics in the SAT are the college-readiness benchmarks: 480 on the reading and writing section and 530 on the math section. Students who hit both of these benchmarks are more likely to earn at least a C in introductory-level college classes.
SAT Test Day Results, 2019 (Juniors)

These are the top schools for composite scores and students meeting both benchmarks from the SAT test day of April 2019.

Top Schools for Composite

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Name</th>
<th>Composite Score</th>
<th>Benchmark Score</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Renaissance High</td>
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<td>Meridian Technical Charter High</td>
<td>1196</td>
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<td>Liberty Charter High</td>
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<td>1082</td>
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<tr>
<td>Xavier Charter</td>
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<td>1080</td>
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<td>Meridian Medical Arts Charter High</td>
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<tr>
<td>North Star Charter</td>
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<td>1059</td>
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<td>Troy High</td>
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<td>North Idaho Stem Charter Academy</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deary High</td>
<td>1113</td>
<td>1049</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Best at Students Meeting Both Benchmarks

- Compass Honors High: 84%
- Renaissance High: 73%
- Meridian Medical Arts Charter High: 69%
- Meridian Technical Charter High: 69%
- Grace High: 68%
- Mercury High: 68%
- Thomas Jefferson Charter: 61%
- Troy High: 61%
- Moscow Senior High: 59%
- Victory Charter: 58%
- Mackay High: 57%
- Liberty Charter High: 56%
- Boise High: 54%
- North Star Charter: 54%
- Soda Springs High: 53%
- Idaho Fine Arts Academy: 52%
- Sage International: 51%
- Timberline High (Boise): 50%
- Eagle High: 50%
- Idaho Arts Charter: 49%
- Xavier Charter: 48%
Idaho’s High School Graduation Rate Made Slight Gains

Idaho’s high school graduation rate increased slightly in 2019, inching up a fraction of a percentage point, but graduation rates fell significantly for Hispanic students and students with disabilities.

For the class of 2019, the four-year graduation rate was 80.7 percent, compared with 80.6 percent the previous year.

But for Hispanic students, the graduation rate decreased by 2 percentage points, to 73.9 percent.

Graduation rates for other at-risk groups dropped as well:

For students with disabilities, the graduation rate was 56.1 percent, down 2.4 percentage points.

For migrant students, the graduation rate was 64.3 percent, down 5.6 percentage points.

For English language learners, the graduation rate was 74.4 percent, down 1.1 percentage points.

Overall, Idaho’s high school graduation rate fell well short of the state’s goal. For the class of 2019, the state’s goal was 87.3 percent.

Graduation rates are determined by the number of students who graduate in four years divided by the number of students who started ninth grade. Students who transfer and enroll in another school are not counted.
High Schools With 100% Graduation Rate, 2019

Renaissance High (West Ada)
Meridian Medical Arts Charter (West Ada)
Meridian Technical Charter (West Ada)
Council
Carey
Grace
North Gem
Oakley
Mackay

Idaho’s National Ranking

2016  79.7%  84.1%
2017  79.7%  84.5%
2018  80.6%  85%
2019  80.7%  85%

Grad Rates for Idaho's 10 Largest Districts

Pocatello  92.6%
Coeur d’Alene  91.0%
Vallivue  86.7%
West Ada  85.5%
Jefferson County  83.0%
Bonneville  82.4%
Nampa  82.0%
Boise  80.4%
Twin Falls  77.4%
Idaho Falls  73.5%

Statewide  80.7%
GO-ON RATES

Idaho’s Go-On Rate Remains Largely Unchanged From Years Past

About 44.8 percent of seniors who graduated in spring 2019 went straight to college in the fall. That’s almost identical to the 44.6 percent go-on rate for the class of 2018 reported a year ago.

The raw numbers for 2019: Almost 9,000 high school grads went straight to college and nearly 11,000 did something else.

Over time, college enrollment numbers increase slightly because of updates from colleges and universities. For example, the State Board updated the immediate go-on rate for the class of 2018 to 48.1 percent. That’s almost 4 percentage points higher than the rate calculated last spring. Over a year’s time, the 2019 number will likely improve.

The “immediate” go-on rate shows how many students start their post-secondary education within a few months. If you give students a year, or even 16 months to enroll in college, the go-on rate improves, accounting for students who took a “gap year,” or put college on hold for religious or financial reasons.

Here is updated data for Idaho’s high school graduating class of 2018:

- **48.1 percent**: Grads who immediately enrolled.
- **51.7 percent**: Grads who enrolled one year after graduation.
- **55.3 percent**: Grads who enrolled 16 months from graduation.

The go-on rate is the percentage of students entering a post-secondary education program in the fall after high school graduation. Young adults who do not go on to some form of higher education, and instead go on religious missions or join the military, are not counted.
Idaho's community college and university presidents have formed a council to advance the state’s goal to get more teens to continue their education after high school.

The Presidents’ Leadership Council began meeting in the fall of 2019 to consider ways to improve Idaho’s low and stagnant college go-on rate and other career-readiness initiatives.

The effort stems from the State Board of Education’s call for higher education institutions to work together on the issue.

“This is a big deal,” said State Board President Debbie Critchfield.

One move to improve the go-on rate was to freeze tuition this year at Idaho's colleges and universities.
College Degree Or Certificate Attainment Data Is Unchanged

Only 41.9 percent of Idaho’s young adults hold a college degree or professional certificate, according to newly released U.S. Census Bureau numbers.

The 2018 numbers mean Idaho’s postsecondary completion rate has been stagnant for four straight years.

The numbers haven’t moved — despite two gubernatorial task forces, more than $133 million in new state spending and an ongoing drive from education, political and business leaders.

Idaho leaders want 60 percent of the state’s 25- to 34-year-olds to obtain a degree or certificate. They say high school graduates need to continue their education in order to prepare for a modern job market, and help Idaho compete in a changing economy.

Idaho’s Degree Attainment Rate Compared With U.S. Degree Attainment Rate
National Lumina Report Puts Idaho Near the Bottom

The Lumina Foundation, an Indianapolis, Ind.-based foundation, is pushing a national 60 percent goal, with a 2025 target date that mirrors Idaho’s goal. Lumina tracks Idaho’s college attainment rate at 41.9 percent because it considers all adults. Idaho’s goal is focused only on 25- to 34-year-olds. Nationally, Lumina’s postsecondary completion rate comes in at 48.4 percent. Idaho’s 41.9 percent rate is good enough to beat only five other states: Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, Nevada and West Virginia.
IDAHO HAS MISSED ALL OF ITS GRADUATION RATE TARGETS AS WELL AS TARGETS IN MATH AND ENGLISH OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS.
Idaho has failed to meet its own yearly achievement goals and is sliding further away from reaching long-term 2022 goals.

The goals were determined by the State Department of Education as part of Idaho's five-year plan to comply with the federal Every Student Succeeds Act. The goals were vetted through public meetings and approved by the State Board of Education, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra and then-Gov. Butch Otter.

The goals call for improving test scores and closing achievement gaps over six years. The idea is to reduce the percentage of students not scoring proficient by one third by 2022.

Idaho has failed to meet the 2018 and 2019 targets in math and English and high school graduation rates. Idaho also is behind at meeting its goals for degree attainment and reading proficiency for third-grade students.
IDAHO’S REPORT CARD

Idaho Has Not Met 2019 Academic Achievement Targets

These targets were identified by the State Department of Education as part of Idaho's compliance plan for the federal Every Student Succeeds Act.

Math

Over half of Idaho math students are not scoring at grade level on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT).

![Graph showing Math scores with actual and state goal percentages.]

English Language Arts

Student proficiency in English on the ISAT has improved, but it still lags behind the goal for 2019.

![Graph showing English Language Arts scores with actual and state goal percentages.]

Progress for English Proficiency

This indicator of success focuses on English learners and measures the progress they make toward English language proficiency.

![Graph showing Progress for English Proficiency scores with actual and state goal percentages.]

**High School Graduation Rate**

More students in Idaho are graduating from high school, but the percentage is still short of the goal and Idaho is ranked No. 43 in the nation.*

![High School Graduation Rate Chart](chart)

**Post-Secondary Degree/Certificate Attainment**

Idaho's No. 1 education goal is for 60% of 25- to 34-year-olds to attain a post-high school degree or certificate by 2025.*

![Post-Secondary Degree/Certificate Attainment Chart](chart)

**3rd Grade Reading Proficiency**

Idaho law states that “every student read at or above grade level by the end of grade 3.”

![3rd Grade Reading Proficiency Chart](chart)

*2019 data
Student Survey Gauges Classroom Engagement

The number of students who say they’re engaged at school dropped from 2018 to 2019, according to results from the State Department of Education.

In 2018, the SDE’s annual student engagement survey showed 65.5 percent of Idaho’s third- through eighth-graders reported being “committed” in three areas of focus: behavior, cognition and emotion. In 2019, the overall number fell by nearly 13 percentage points, to 52.6 percent. High school students were added to the survey in 2019.

Student engagement data is important in Idaho because it is one accountability metric Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra and the State Board of Education chose to use in the state’s plan to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act, a federal education law.

Student Engagement Survey (2019)
Surveys Gauge Staff and Parent Engagement

The State Department of Education surveyed staff and parents to gauge their engagement in their schools.

Staff Engagement Survey (2019)

Staff engagement was just under 76 percent, with 19,000 respondents out of 43,000 staff members.

Administrators were responsible for surveying their students, parents and staff. (If you did not have the opportunity to be surveyed, contact your building leaders.)

Parent Engagement Survey (2019)

Only 37,441 parents responded. (312,000 children attend public schools.) Of those who responded, 74.5 percent reported “being engaged.”
TOP ACHIEVERS

ENGLISH LEARNER PROGRESS

Preston
Notus
Heritage Community Charter
Filer
Post Falls

GROWTH IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

Coeur d’Alene Charter Academy
North Idaho Stem Charter
Troy
Compass Public Charter
Victory Charter

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

Victory Charter
Middleton
Moscow
Kimberly
Marsh Valley
Homedale

GROWTH IN READING (IRI)

Bruneau-Grand View
Aberdeen
Whitepine
Bliss
Soda Springs
TOP ACHIEVERS

GROWTH IN MATH
- North Idaho Stem Charter
- Victory Charter
- Coeur d’Alene Charter Academy
- Troy
- Syringa Mountain

2019 DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS
- Nezperce School
- Birch Elementary (Vallivue)

SCIENCE (ISAT)
- Coeur d’Alene Charter Academy
- North Idaho Stem Charter
- Victory Charter
- Falcon Ridge Public Charter
- McCall-Donnelly

NOMINATED FOR BLUE RIBBON STATUS
- Fairview Elementary (Bonneville)
- Beutler Middle (West Side)
ASK THIS: WHAT DO YOU MEASURE TO ENSURE MY CHILD IS LEARNING?
Questions for School Leaders

Most of us spend more time shopping for a car or furniture than we do shopping for the best school for our child.

Most parents choose to send their children to the neighborhood school. It's convenient and transportation is often provided.

But today, there are choices. Traditional schools often have open enrollment and charter schools are popping up in Idaho at a record pace.

To help parents research, we created IdahoEdTrends.org, a place to explore and compare data on every public school in Idaho.

We also created these questions to ask of school leaders. Superintendents, principals and trustees should be able to answer these questions about the schools they lead. And as parents, you should be able to learn about the environment where your child spends most of their learning years.

You will learn about teaching philosophies, what is measured and why and spending priorities.
QUESTIONS TO ASK

To learn more about your school and district, ask these questions of school leaders:

School Philosophy
- Does this school have an educational philosophy or mission?
- How often do you consider student learning when making schoolwide decisions?
- What credible evidence do you look for that ensures students are learning?
- What are some of the school’s greatest accomplishments?
- What are some of the biggest challenges?

Teacher Quality
- How will you measure my child’s learning progress?
- How do you measure the learning progress of all kids?
- When you observe teachers in a classroom, what teaching strategies do you look for to measure teacher effectiveness?

Student Resources
- What is the school’s approach to homework?
- What library resources are available to my child?
- How is technology used to support teaching and learning at this school?
- How do the arts fit into the curriculum?
- What extracurricular opportunities are available? Is there a gifted student program?
- How does this school support students who have academic or social difficulties?
- What strategies are used to teach students who are not fluent in English?

Safety
- What is this school’s approach to student discipline and safety?
- Is bullying a problem at the school? Does the school have an anti-bullying policy?
Taxpayer Dollars

• What percentage of the district budget is in a savings account and how was that amount determined?
• How do you determine priorities for spending?
• When do you ask for and how do you spend taxpayer dollars collected from supplemental levies?

Leadership

• What is the district’s continuous improvement plan and what measurable goals within the plan do you use to measure progress?
• What are your personal goals as a school leader and how do you measure your success?
• How do you engage the community and what is your strategy for involving patrons in district-wide decisions?
• How do you evaluate principals?
• How often do you consider student learning when making district-wide decisions?

Achievement

• What is the graduation rate?
• What is the district go-on rate?
• What is the proficiency in elementary math and reading?
• What are the average scores on college entrance exams?
• How does the data compare with other districts, the state and nation?
• What are student and teacher attendance rates?
• What are student enrollment and discipline trends?

Transparency

• How are board minutes made available to the public?
• Do you comply with Idaho’s transparency requirements (posting expenditures, teacher/vendor contracts, budgets, master agreements and continuous improvement plans to the district website)?
• How do you use parent surveys to make district-wide decisions?