

MINUTES  
**SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** Thursday, February 07, 2013

**TIME:** 3:00 P.M.

**PLACE:** Room WW55

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Goedde, Vice Chairman Mortimer, Senators Pearce, Nonini, Thayn, Patrick, Durst, Buckner-Webb

**ABSENT/ EXCUSED:** Senator Fulcher

**NOTE:** The sign-in sheet, testimonies and other related materials will be retained with the minutes in the committee's office until the end of the session and will then be located on file with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

**CONVENED:** **Chairman Goedde** called the Education Committee to order at 3:14 p.m., and a silent role was taken, and informed the committee that they would hear a presentation about Idaho's new longitudinal data system, and Schoolnet, which complements that system.

**PRESENTATION:** **Ms. Joyce Popp**, Chief Information Officer for the State Department of Education, stated that in 2007, when Superintendent Luna first took office, Idaho was one of three states in the nation without a Longitudinal Data System (LDS). By 2008, Idaho was the only state, the last state, in the nation without one. **Ms. Popp** defined an LDS as a data collection system that provides individual-level student data across multiple years from grades K through 12 and into postsecondary education. With an LDS, states can ensure that: student records are easily transferred from district to district; student privacy is protected through high-level security; data definitions and requirements are standard from school to school and district to district; and data systems are organized to provide clear, transparent information to educators, policymakers, parents and taxpayers. With an LDS, the state can receive verifiable student-level data for the first time ever. Idaho can more accurately calculate critical statistics such as the graduation rate and dropout rate, among other things. Prior to this system, Idaho had a disorganized data collection system in place that required duplicative reporting from different people through a school district throughout a single year. Now, through the Idaho System for Educational Excellence (ISEE) system, Idaho has streamlined data collection, and all data collection goes through ISEE. It consolidates reporting from 184 times a year under the old system to just 12 times per year, thereby decreasing both errors and personnel involved in the reporting task.

**Ms. Popp** stated that since implementation of ISEE, the state has realized several benefits: First: it can cross reference data that school districts send. This eliminates the problem of one student being counted in multiple districts. ISEE also ensures that a student's race or ethnicity, or a student with a disability, is identified as soon as they enroll in school, so that teachers and school administrators understand from the first day the student populations they are serving. Second: the state has been able to move away from Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) and develop its own accountability system based on multiple measures, such as Idaho's Five Star Rating System. The Five Star Rating System, which measures proficiency as well as academic growth, graduation rates, advanced opportunities and student scores on college entrance exams, would not have been possible without ISEE. Third, the data collected at the state level is delivered back to the classroom, where teachers, parents and school administrators can use it most. This data access portal is called Schoolnet, and allows teachers to see how each individual student

is achieving, as well as their entire classroom on a daily or yearly basis. While Idaho faces challenges in implementing ISEE, many solutions have come forth, and progress is being made. Ms. Popp's complete speaker notes are attached and incorporated by reference.

**PRESENTATION:** **Alex Macdonald**, Director of Instructional Technology, SDE, explained that ISEE-Phase II, or Schoolnet, is the instructional management system that makes collected data available and useful for teachers, administrators and parents. With Schoolnet, teachers can work smarter, not harder. They can maximize planning and instructional time while streamlining administrative tasks. Schoolnet was selected after a rigorous review process. In May 2010, representatives from each educational stakeholder group, including school board trustees, parents, teachers, superintendents, principals and technology directors reviewed several instructional management systems that are currently in place in large school districts across the country. Schoolnet received the highest marks from this selection committee. In 2011, the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Foundation provided a \$21 million grant to the SDE to deploy Schoolnet to every school and classroom, and to provide professional development opportunities. The SDE also provides additional training and support to 15 grantee districts, which is expanding in the coming year. In accepting this grant fund, the state did agree to provide matching funds during the three-year grant cycle and to provide the necessary ongoing funding after the grant expired. This funding was provided through Students Come First. Since these laws have been repealed, Superintendent Luna has requested funding in the FY 2014 public schools budget so the state will meet its obligation to continue providing Schoolnet and professional development opportunities to Idaho teachers, educators, and parents.

**Mr. Macdonald** next provided a detailed website demonstration of how a teacher would use Schoolnet to develop lesson plans. Mr. Macdonald's powerpoint presentation is attached and incorporated by reference. Following the demonstration, Mr. Macdonald answered several questions from the committee. Schoolnet is currently available in every district in Idaho, on an opt in basis. Currently, fifteen grantee districts are using it fully. A fully integrated district requires approximately two years of professional development which has been available in the fifteen grantee districts. Mr. Macdonald will provide a report on dollars expended to date and future funding needs.

**ADJOURNED:** **Chairman Goedde** thanked Ms. Popp and Mr. Macdonald for their presentations. Having no further business before the committee, **Chairman Goedde** adjourned the meeting at 4:25 p.m.

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Senator Goedde  
Chairman

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Elaine Leedy  
Secretary