

Good afternoon.

I am **Matt Freeman**, Executive Director of the State Board of Education.

As always, it's a pleasure to be here before the committee. On behalf of the State Board of Education and my staff, welcome to another legislative session. We look forward to working with all of you.

The State Board of Education consists of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor and the eighth being the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Board is the governing body for public education from kindergarten through college. The Board serves as the Board of Regents or Trustees for the state's four-year colleges and universities, and also governs Eastern Idaho Technical College. The State Department of Education is an executive agency of the Board established to carry out state law and Board policies for elementary and secondary public education. Other agencies under the Board include, of course, my Office, as well as the Division of Career & Technical Education, Idaho Public Television and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

During this past interim, the Board and its staff have been assisting school districts with the new literacy intervention and continuous improvement plan requirements as well as the new college and career advising plans. Additionally, we conducted a public input process to develop a new statewide accountability system for schools and school districts, which you will see when considering administrative rules.

Regarding the career ladder and teacher evaluations, the Board has provided clarification to school districts for reporting data elements to the state as evidence for movement along the career ladder. We are also in the midst of conducting a review of the teacher evaluations conducted in the 2015-16 academic year. We will report the findings of this review along with any necessary recommendations to you in mid-February.

The Board's legislative agenda this year continues to be in full support of the recommendations of the Governor's Task Force for Improving Education. We also have legislation addressing the ability of community colleges to provide upper division courses. We also strongly support the Governor's proposed legislation to create an Adult Completers Scholarship.

And finally, the Board looks forward to being a part of the Governor's Task force for Higher Education and implementing recommendation resulting from the work of that group.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am happy to stand for questions.