

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I'm Marilyn Whitney, Deputy Superintendent, Communications and Policy in the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

The Supt. appreciates this time to provide the committee with an overview of the legislative and budget priorities for this session. I know you asked for top priorities but I'll be running through a number of the Supt's priorities. There is a lot of work to do.

On behalf of the 307,000 students in Idaho, the Supt.'s FY 2020 budget request calls for a 6.8 percent increase in general fund support for public schools, which is \$112.5 million of new investment that would bring state General Fund support to a total of \$1.9 billion.

Much of the increase for FY20 will be spent on statutory requirements, including a \$48 million dollar increase for the career ladder.

The Supt.'s top priorities reflect her support for continuing the momentum of recent years to increase teacher pay and implement the recommendations of the Task Force for improving education.

In addition to the budget request for the fifth year of implementing the career ladder, the Supt. has asked for \$12 million for the master educator premium to help our schools keep master teachers in the classroom.

Ensuring that all students have great teachers is a top priority and the Supt. has proposed just under \$1 million to fund a teacher pipeline initiative aimed at addressing the state's teacher shortage by helping rural and remote school districts find teachers in hard to fill positions. There will be legislation that comes before you this session for your input and discussion on these ideas.

An additional \$3 million is being requested to fund the state's highly successful advanced opportunities program, which you will hear detailed reports about from

the Department and Board of Education. Student participation continues to increase, and the additional funding will help keep pace with that growth.

The Supt. is also requesting \$1.4 million in additional funding to expand the mastery-based education initiative beyond the original 20 incubators. This phase 2 investment will provide schools with seed money to begin the transition to a more student-centered environment. The Supt. intends to bring legislation to remove the cap on the incubators and formalize the Department's Mastery Education Network which supports schools moving to a personalized instruction model.

The FY 2020 request also reflects continued investment in the literacy initiative and proposes an additional \$1.1 million for the math initiative, to provide professional development to secondary teachers in the areas of financial literacy, modeling, and data literacy aligned to the state's math standards. Since the inception of the math initiative, the focus has been on grades K-8. This additional funding would support secondary math and economics educators.

An additional \$1.5 million is also requested for professional development for teachers focused on the new Idaho State Science Standards and a new science assessment currently under development.

The budget request also includes an additional \$3 million for continued distribution to schools for technology devices, software and teacher training.

The Supt. remains a passionate advocate for school and student safety and her budget request reflects that priority. Efforts over the last few years have focused on anti-bullying education, threat assessments of Idaho public schools and the ability of law enforcement to take action on imminent threats but addressing student safety is an ongoing and critical effort. The Superintendent will continue to work with stakeholders and the Legislature to ensure that student safety remains a top priority moving forward.

The Supt. and Department staff look forward to presenting to you on a number of student achievement developments including the new state report card for schools which was rolled out in early December. This report card will provide policy maker, parents and patrons with important data and information on how your local schools are performing and how the state education system is performing.

We also look forward to providing you with detailed information on the implementation of the new science standards and the new science assessment as well as on how the mastery-based initiative is being implemented.

With that Mr. Chairman and members of the committee again thank you for the time and the Supt. and all the staff at SDE look forward to working with all of you in the coming weeks.