



# IDAHO

STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

February 26, 2020

Dear Senate Education Committee,

I appreciate your support for taking a thoughtful, measured approach to reviewing and revising Idaho's teacher certification standards and want to take this opportunity to share my thoughts about how to proceed.

Rather than bring forward only 20 percent of the certification and endorsement standards next year as the Department typically does, I plan to have a broad-based committee review all the teacher preparation standards over the next 18 months. The review committee would include educators, legislators, parents and others interested in reviewing, streamlining, and simplifying certification standards and endorsements.

The committee will be tasked with reviewing the standards with the goal of reducing requirements that cause unnecessary expense, time, and work for our higher education institutions but have no correlation to improving the quality of teaching. The goal would be to provide our teacher preparation programs with more flexibility and opportunity to innovate.

The work would begin this summer with the intent to bring changes to the Board of Education in Nov. of 2021 for review and approval of the Legislature in 2022.

I look forward to working with you and to having members of your committee participate in this important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherri A. Ybarra".

Sherri A. Ybarra, Ed.S.  
Superintendent of Public Instruction