



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Superintendent Luna Announces He Will Not Seek Re-Election in 2014

BOISE – Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna announced today he will not seek re-election for the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

During his announcement, Superintendent Luna said, *“Today, we have a clear path forward to accomplishing our goal for every Idaho student to graduate from high school prepared to go on to postsecondary education or the workforce without the need for remediation. Over the years, many of our efforts have been successful and some not, but they have all led us to where we are today – bipartisan support for the path to achieving our goal. Yet it seems that all my actions currently are being filtered through a re-election lens. Because of this, I believe there are some who currently support what we are doing, but who might feel the need to distance themselves from this work – or even oppose it – simply because they think it might benefit me politically in the future. I want to take that off the table. For that reason, I will not seek re-election in 2014. This is not a decision I came to easily, but I know it is the right decision for me, for my family, and ultimately for the children of Idaho.”*

Superintendent Luna is committed to serving out the remainder of his term as State Superintendent.

Tom Luna first took office as State Superintendent in 2007. He was re-elected in 2010. During the past seven years, he has accomplished many things for Idaho students as he worked to build a customer-driven education system that would meet the needs of every child. Here are a just a few examples of the things he has accomplished:

- Closed the digital divide between rural and urban schools by expanding access to the best educational opportunities to every Idaho student, no matter where they live, through the Idaho Education Network and wireless learning environments
- Moved away from many of the onerous provisions of No Child Left Behind to a new system of increased accountability, built by Idahoans, that is based on multiple measures, including academic growth
- Adopted higher academic standards to make sure students are getting the education they deserve in grades K-12 so they are prepared for postsecondary education and the workforce
- Transformed the outdated salary grid by tying a portion of a teacher’s compensation to student achievement results and gained bipartisan support to fully transition to a Career Ladder Compensation Model in the future.

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- Ensured parental choice is no longer limited by an artificial cap on public charter schools and doubled the number of public charter schools across the state
- Created an environment where the demand for the full integration of technology into the classroom has become organic
- Empowered locally elected school boards by helping to reform labor laws
- Established Idaho SAT School Day so every high school junior can take a college entrance exam before they leave high school
- Created a middle level credit system to make sure students are prepared before they go on to high school
- Provided more transparency to parents and taxpayers by creating an online academic report card and a fiscal report card
- Moved to a uniform process for evaluating educators in which at least a portion of a teacher's job performance is tied to student academic growth measures, determined at the local level.
- Created the Idaho Math Initiative to improve mathematics education across all grades and lay a strong foundation for raising academic standards in mathematics
- Increased advanced opportunities by helping high school students pay for dual credit, Advanced Placement or professional technical courses

Superintendent Luna has visited more than 100 school districts and public charter schools across Idaho, including those in the most rural and remote parts of the state. As State Superintendent, he enjoys getting into the classroom to talk with students and teachers about the programs and policies that affect them directly.

Superintendent Luna also has been recognized as a leader outside the State of Idaho. He served as the President of the Council of Chief State School Officers, where he led the effort to reform teacher preparation programs and make sure every teacher who graduates from college enters the classroom is “learner-ready.”

Superintendent Luna also serves on the National Assessment Governing Board, which oversees the Nation's Report Card.

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