



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

April 9, 2015

Mr. Kevin Howell, Board Chairman
Madison School District 321
60 W. Main Street
Rexburg, ID 83440

Dear Chairman Howell:

Your service to the students and parents in the Madison School District is appreciated, and we understand the board of trustee's interest in making important decisions at the local level. In conversations with Supt. Ybarra, I learned that your board decided not to administer the statewide standards achievement test, the Smarter Balanced Assessment, and to instead administer an alternative assessment.

As Supt. Ybarra has communicated to you, this decision could lead to non-compliance with the agreement Idaho has in place with the U.S. Department of Education (USD OE) and may jeopardize funding for Idaho schools. Supt. Ybarra is working diligently to achieve a more flexible agreement with the USD OE, and is looking for the best option for a statewide assessment of our students' progress. This does not, however, allow us to circumvent the current agreement.

I hope the board of trustees will reconsider its decision and administer the statewide assessment. The State Department of Education has offered to support your district in making the necessary provisions and logistical arrangements. Once again, thank you for your efforts on behalf of the students of our great state.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is stylized with a large, flowing "C" and "O".

CLO/mlw

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho

cc: Supt. Sherri Ybarra
Sen. Brent Hill
Emma Atchley