**IRI trends analysis**

Using the spring 2016, fall 2016 and spring 2017 Idaho Reading Indicator scores, Idaho Education News has analyzed trends during the first year of the state’s literacy initiative.

Key findings:

* + The state’s largest districts showed the most pronounced improvements, compared to rural districts and charter schools.
  + In rural districts, improvement rates from spring 2016 were spotty. In kindergarten, first and second grade, proficiency ratings were more likely to drop than increase.
  + For charter schools, improvement rates from spring 2016 generally outpaced rural schools, but generally lagged behind urban schools.
  + During the 2016-17 school year — the first year of the literacy initiative — urban districts showed greater improvement than rural districts and charters. In all grade levels, rural school improvement rates outpaced charter schools.

Definitions and methods:

“Big districts” are Idaho’s 20 largest districts, based on enrollment.

To build the tables, Idaho Education News used the percentages of students who scored a “3” on the IRI, comparing spring 2016, fall 2016 and spring 2017 results.

“Strong improvement” represents an improvement of more than 10 percentage points. “Sharp decrease” represents a decrease of more than 10 percentage points.

“Improvement percentage” reflects the percentage of districts or charters that had a greater percentage of students score a “3” on the IRI.

The analysis does not reflect every school district and charter in the state.

First some scores were redacted. The State Department of Education redacts scores for smaller districts, charter schools and some grade levels, to protect student privacy. When the department moved IRI scores from one public website to another on Aug. 1, additional scores were redacted. In these cases, Idaho Education News used data it collected from the original state website, in order to present as wide a cross-section of districts and charters as possible.

Additionally, spring 2017 scores for a few districts and charters are also missing from the SDE site. Here again, Idaho Education News used all available data, and missing districts and charters were not included in this analysis.

**Spring 2016 to Spring 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Kindergarten | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 1 | 13 | 6 | 0 | 70 % |
| Charters | 5 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 50 % |
| Rural districts | 14 | 15 | 18 | 21 | 42.6 % |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First grade | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 0 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 50 % |
| Charters | 7 | 11 | 5 | 7 | 60 % |
| Rural districts | 11 | 19 | 25 | 18 | 41.1 % |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Second grade | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 0 | 12 | 8 | 0 | 60 % |
| Charters | 4 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 55.6 % |
| Rural districts | 12 | 20 | 31 | 7 | 45.7 % |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Third grade | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 1 | 12 | 7 | 0 | 65 % |
| Charters | 7 | 7 | 11 | 3 | 50 % |
| Rural districts | 13 | 29 | 18 | 12 | 58.3 % |

**Fall 2016 to Spring 2017**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Kindergarten | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 20 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 % |
| Charters | 17 | 3 | 8 | 4 | 62.5 % |
| Rural districts | 55 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 94.1 % |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| First grade | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 4 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 90 % |
| Charters | 5 | 9 | 12 | 4 | 46.7 % |
| Rural districts | 24 | 21 | 17 | 11 | 61.6 % |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Second grade | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 17 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 100 % |
| Charters | 20 | 7 | 4 | 0 | 87.1 % |
| Rural districts | 56 | 15 | 1 | 0 | 98.6 % |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Third grade | Strong improvement | Improvement | Decrease | Sharp decrease | Improvement percentage |
| Big districts | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 100 % |
| Charters | 9 | 15 | 4 | 0 | 85.7 % |
| Rural districts | 52 | 15 | 5 | 0 | 93.1 % |