



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
GOVERNOR

September 13, 2017

Linda Clark, President  
Debbie Critchfield, Vice President  
Dave Hill, Secretary  
Emma Atchley  
Andy Scoggin  
Don Soltman  
Richard Westerberg  
Sherri Ybarra

Dear Board Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Consolidated State Plan for Idaho. I greatly appreciate the Board's attention to this important work and your recognition of the plan's importance in ensuring all Idaho students have access to a high-quality education.

The accountability framework your accountability committee developed will help us identify best practices as well as areas for improvement not just for schools eligible for federal funds but for all schools in the state. Your attention to development of achievable goals that still set high standards is commendable. I also commend the Board for ensuring that stakeholders were involved in the process of developing the plan and included as in-depth discussions occurred around specific provisions.

I would like to more fully understand the assistance provided to the lowest performing schools through the statewide system of support described in the plan. Specifically, please provide me with additional information on the principal and superintendent networks and the principal mentoring program, including how these programs are funded, how participants are identified and how the impact on student outcomes is tracked and reported. While there is mention of participant satisfaction, it is important that these programs lead to measurable and significant improvement in student results. I am also interested in learning more about what measures the Board is contemplating to address chronically underperforming schools. I look forward to a more detailed report on these topics by the end of the December.

I will be interested to see the feedback from the U.S. Department of Education's review of Idaho's plan and ask that you share that with me. With the flexibility provided for in this latest federal reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Idaho has a tremendous opportunity to demonstrate that we can develop and implement practices that best meet the needs of Idaho students. Once again, thank you for your efforts.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.L. 'Butch' Otter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "O".

C.L. "Butch" Otter  
Governor of Idaho

CLO/mlw