

IV. LEGISLATION – POLICIES – RULES

A.2 Legislation – Education Committees Presentation – Information Item

**IDAHO COMMISSION FOR LIBRARIES
2010 EDUCATION COMMITTEES
ANN JOSLIN, STATE LIBRARIAN**



INTRODUCTION

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, on behalf of the Board of Library Commissioners, thank you for this opportunity to bring you up to date on the statewide programs the Commission has been working on since I last talked with you.

You have in front of you several documents.

- The first is an overview of our accomplishments in 2009.
- The second, an overview of our major 2010 Initiatives, provides more detail on the work we are doing in the education arena.
- The remaining handouts describe results of our Read to Me early literacy program. I've invited a guest to speak with you about his evaluation of the program, and I'll introduce him in a few minutes.

First, I'd like to say a few words about our major initiatives in FY2010.

School Library Impact Study

- We've just received the results of a commissioned study to assess the impact good school library programs have on student success.
 - This report, available on our website, confirms what we've believed for a long time:
 - students are more likely to succeed when school librarians play active and collaborative roles with other teachers and with administrators.
 - We will be distributing the study findings and recommendations widely over the next several months.
 - Our next step is to draft a school library development plan that reflects the study's recommendations for how school librarians, teachers, and administrators can create the environment where these activities take place.

Information and Communication Technology Standards

- On the second page you'll see a summary of the development of Idaho content standards for information and communication technology.
 - This is an area that many school librarians feel is an integral part of their job.
 - We are collaborating with the Department of Education and the Idaho Library Association on this effort to promote critical thinking and problem solving skills using a variety of tools including web-based technology.

- The draft standards are scheduled to be presented at the April meeting of the State Board of Education.

GATES / BTOP proposal

- Finally, you'll find a brief description of our partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to develop an application under the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program, or BTOP.
- If our proposal is awarded, Idaho's least connected public libraries will have the bandwidth and computers to offer lifelong educational opportunities to Idaho citizens.
- I am very enthusiastic about the partnerships we've formed to leverage resources from other state entities –
 - Department of Labor,
 - Professional Technical Education's Adult Basic Education,
 - our community colleges,
 - Idaho Public TV,
 - Idaho Digital Learning Academy, and
 - Department of Education
- With this project, the reach of these agencies will be extended through public libraries throughout the state giving easier access to their services and resources for K-14 education, un- and under-employment, adult basic education, and e-government.
- The project will provide new digital resources as well, including:
 - a database of practice tests, exercises, and skills-building courses for all ages, basic computer courses and GED, ACT, and SAT preparation,
 - Teachers' Domain, an extensive library of digital media resources produced by public television, designed for classroom use and professional development, and
 - Internet 2 resources, such as the K20 Initiative that extends new technologies and content to all educational sectors.
- If funded, this project will significantly increase digital library resources available in Idaho.

Read to Me

- The rest of your handouts address the evaluation of 2009 Read to Me activities.
- I am very pleased that Doctor Roger Stuart, a professor of literacy education at Boise State University, is here today to talk to you about his findings.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of the Commission for Libraries and the Idaho library community.