NEWS RELEASE
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Information Contacts:
Jeannie Standal, Idaho Commission for Libraries / 208-639-4139 / jeannie.standal@libraries.idaho.gov
Donna Eggers, Idaho Commission for Libraries / 208-639-4183 / donna.eggers@libraries.idaho.gov

ICfL Awards $200,000 to School Libraries throughout Idaho

BOISE, Idaho -- The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) recently awarded $200,000 to 43 elementary school libraries throughout Idaho for the 2017 - 2018 school year. The ICfL received the $200,000 from the Idaho state legislature and awarded the funds in the form of mini-grants, for amounts between $3,000 and $5,000, each.

For 28 of the elementary school libraries, the funds will be used for the purchase of books and to facilitate a change in their school's policy to allow the youngest students the opportunity of checking books out to take home. For 15 of the elementary school libraries, the funds will be used for the purchase of books and to keep the library open during the summer of 2018.

The goals of the grant program are: to increase the amount of reading done in homes of children in developmental preschool programs, kindergarten, and first grade; to increase access to age-appropriate, quality, fiction and non-fiction titles in elementary school libraries; and to increase the number of children reading on grade level.

The 2012 “Idaho Public Elementary School Library Study: Children’s Access to Books,” conducted by Boise State University literary expert Dr. Roger Stewart, determined that just over a quarter of Idaho public elementary school libraries received $100 or less from their school to purchase new books for the entire 2011 - 2012 school year.

With book budgets that typically range from $100 to $1,000 per year and an average book cost of more than $17 each, the majority of Idaho’s public school libraries are unable to provide enough fiction and non-fiction books to meet the needs of Idaho’s students.

State Librarian Ann Joslin said, “A child’s educational foundation is established early, and the amount of reading done in the home is the single most important factor in the development of a child’s literacy skills. But too many of our youngest Idahoans are at a disadvantage in this critical area because their elementary school lacks the resources to provide current, quality, age-appropriate books for their students to either read at school or take home.”

With the funding it received from the Idaho state legislature, the ICfL was able to fund 43 of the 57 school library access grant requests. The following 28 elementary school libraries will use the $125,000 in funding during the 2017 - 2018 school year. The 15 elementary schools granted school library access summer grants will use the $75,000 in funding during the summer of 2018. This access to books minimizes the “summer slide” of learning loss for students.

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2017 - 2018 School Library Access (School Year) Grant Recipients:
American Falls Joint School District #381: Hillcrest Elementary, $5,000
Blaine County School District #61: Alturas Elementary, $5,000
Blaine County School District #61: Carey School, $5,000
Boise School District #1: Cynthia Mann Elementary, $5,000
Boise School District #1: Horizon Elementary $3,000
Boise School District #1: Jefferson Elementary, $3,000
Boise School District #1: White Pine Elementary, $3,000
Bonner Joint School District #93: Discovery Elementary $5,000
Buhl Joint School District #412: Popplewell Elementary, $5,000
Cottonwood Joint School District #242: Prairie Elementary, $3,000
Emmert Independent School District #221: Shadow Butte Elementary, $5,000
Fremont County Joint School District #215: Teton Elementary, $5,000
Idaho Falls School District #91: Temple View Elementary, $5,000
Lake Pend Oreille School District #84: Southside Elementary, $4,000
Lakeland Joint School District #272: John Brown Elementary, $3,000
Lakeland Joint School District #272: Spirit Lake Elementary, $3,000
Minidoka County Joint School District #331: Rupert Elementary, $5,000
Moscow School District #281: Lena Whitmore Elementary, $5,000
Nampa School District #131: Ronald Reagan Elementary, $5,000
Pocatello/Chubbuck School District #25: Tyhee Elementary, $5,000
Post Falls School District #273: Greensferry Elementary, $5,000
Preston Joint School District #21: Pioneer Elementary, $5,000
Twin Falls School District #411: Sawtooth Elementary, $5,000
Vallivue School District #139: Birch Elementary, $5,000
West Ada School District #2: Cecil D. Andrus Elementary, $4,000
West Ada School District #2: Hunter Elementary, $5,000
West Ada School District #2: Silver Sage Elementary, $4,000
West Bonner County School District #83: Idaho Hill Elementary, $5,000

2017 - 2018 School Library Access (Summer) Grant Recipients:
Blackfoot School District #55: Fort Hall Elementary, $5,000
Boise School District #1: Hillcrest Elementary, $5,000
Bonner Joint School District #93: Ammon Elementary, $5,000
Caldwell School District #132: Lewis & Clark Elementary, $5,000
Cascade School District #422: Cascade Elementary, $5,000
Cassia Joint School District #151: Raft River Elementary, $5,000
Filer Joint School District #413: Filer Elementary, $5,000
Genesee Joint School District #282: Genesee Elementary, $5,000
Gooding Joint School District #231: Gooding Elementary, $5,000
Idaho Falls School District #91: Dora Erickson Elementary, $5,000
Idaho Falls School District #91: Ethel Boyes Elementary, $5,000
Mountain Home School District #193: West Elementary, $5,000
Murtaugh Joint School District #418: Murtaugh Elementary, $5,000
Oneida County School District #351: Malad Elementary, $5,000
Post Falls School District #273: Mullan Trail Elementary, $5,000

The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries to better serve their communities through statewide programming, continuing education, online resources, and building library community. To learn more about the ICfL, visit: http://libraries.idaho.gov.

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