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ICfL Awards \$182,000 to School Libraries throughout the Gem State

BOISE, Idaho -- The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) awarded \$182,000 in grant funding to 39 school libraries for the 2018 - 2019 school year. Each school library received between \$2,000 and \$5,000.

The school libraries will use the funds to purchase quality, age-appropriate fiction and nonfiction books for elementary school students. The funding ensures that the kindergarten and first-grade students are allowed to check out at least two books per week. In addition, the grant funding will enable 26 of the school libraries to allow students in all grade levels to check out more than one book per week.

The goal of the ICfL's Supporting Beginning Readers Mini-Grants are: to increase the amount of reading done in the home; to increase access to age-appropriate, quality, fiction and nonfiction titles in elementary school libraries; and to increase the number of children reading on grade level.

ICfL Youth Services Consultant Staci Shaw said, "Research verifies that children who are not reading on grade level by the end of first grade only have a one in eight chance of ever catching up without costly direct intervention."

Scores from the 2017 Idaho Reading Indicator* show that 49 percent of incoming kindergarteners recognized fewer than 11 letters of the alphabet, and of low-income children, that number rose to 63 percent.

The availability of reading material in the home, whether owned or borrowed from the library, is directly associated with children's achievement in reading comprehension.**

ICfL School Library Consultant Jeannie Standal said, "The majority of Idaho's public elementary school libraries do not have the funding to provide enough fiction and nonfiction books to meet the needs of Idaho's students."

The 2012 "Idaho Public Elementary School Library Study: Children's Access to Books" survey, 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 -- which would fund about five hardcover books per year.

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." Joslin added, "With this grant funding, which was appropriated by the Idaho state legislature, we are helping our Idaho elementary school libraries foster critical early literacy skills in our next generation of Idahoans."

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*Idaho State Department of Education

**National Center for Education Statistics, 2001

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Supporting Beginning Readers Mini-Grant Recipients -- 2018 - 2019 School Year

Aberdeen School District #58: Aberdeen Elementary School
Blackfoot School District #55: I.T. Stoddard Elementary School
Blaine County School District #61: Hailey Elementary School
Boise School District #1: Koelsch Elementary School
Boise School District #1: Mountain View Elementary School
Bonneville Joint School District #93: Bridgewater Elementary School
Bonneville Joint School District #93: Fairview Elementary School
Bonneville Joint School District #93: Iona Elementary School
Bonneville Joint School District #93: Tiebreaker Elementary School
Caldwell School District #132: Lincoln Elementary School
Caldwell School District #132: Wilson Elementary School
Cassia County School District #151: Declo Elementary School
Firth School District #59: A.W. Johnson Elementary School
Fremont School District #215: Henry's Fork Elementary
Glenns Ferry School District #192: Glenns Ferry Elementary School
Highland Joint School District #305: Highland Elementary School
Horseshoe Bend School District #73: Horseshoe Bend Elementary School
Idaho Falls School District #91: Edgemont Gardens Elementary School
Idaho Falls School District #91: Fox Hollow Elementary School
Idaho Falls School District #91: Theresa Bunker Elementary School
Lake Pend Oreille School District #84: Hope Elementary School
Lake Pend Oreille School District #84: Washington Elementary School
Madison School District #321: Burton Elementary School
Madison School District #321: Hibbard Elementary School
Marsh Valley School District #21: Lava Elementary School
Middleton School District #134: Middleton Heights Elementary School
Moscow School District #281: West Park Elementary School
Mountain View School District #244: Clearwater Valley Elementary School
Mountain View School District #244: Grangeville Elementary/Middle School
Plummer Worley Joint School District #44: Lakeside Elementary School
Potlatch School District #285: Potlatch Elementary School
Salmon River Joint School District #243: Riggins Elementary School
Shoshone Joint School District #312: Shoshone Elementary School
Soda Springs Joint School District #150: Thirkill Elementary
St. Maries Joint School District #41: Upriver Elementary School
Swan Valley School District #92: Swan Valley Elementary School
Teton County School District #401: Driggs Elementary School
Troy School District #287: Troy Elementary School
West Bonner County School District #83: Priest Lake Elementary School

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) builds the capacity of the more than 850 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Idaho to better serve their communities through: statewide programming and resources, like Read to Me and Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI); consulting; continuing education; partnerships; and aid to underserved populations, such as the visually impaired through the Talking Book Service.