



650 W. State Street • Room 307 • Boise, ID • 83702
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October 19, 2020

Dear Idaho Educators,

Schools and families have been hit hard by COVID-19, causing serious disruption to our students' education. We are writing to ask for your help in getting the word out to your families about Idaho's **Strong Families, Strong Students** grant initiative. *Strong Families, Strong Students* will provide resources to Idaho families to help with their child's learning.

The program will launch October 21st, and families can apply at strongfamilies.idaho.gov. *Strong Families, Strong Students* is funded with \$50 million in federal coronavirus relief funds. It enables eligible families to securely access \$1,500 per child or up to \$3,500 per family credit.

Students and families can be eligible regardless of whether the child attends an Idaho public school, public charter school, private school, parochial school or home school. Awards will be prioritized based on household income level.

We need your help to make *Strong Families, Strong Students* successful. This letter includes a one-page overview of the program as well as an FAQ. Please feel free to share these materials with your school families. In the coming days we will also make available step-by-step instructions to help families apply for and use their credit or seek reimbursement for expenses they have incurred since March 1 through December 30, 2020.

We need to act fast. *Strong Families, Strong Students* is on a very tight schedule. Families will be able to apply between October 21st and December 8th so any help you can provide to inform families and help them with the application process is greatly appreciated. By helping our students access the *Strong Families, Strong Students* instructional resources, we are enabling them to be better prepared to learn and succeed in school.

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Tracie Bent at Tracie.Bent@osbe.idaho.gov or (208) 332-1567.

Sincerely,

Brad Little
Governor of Idaho

Debbie Critchfield
Board President