

# EDUCATION

The Idaho Department of Education oversees the State's K-12 educational system and has two major objectives. The first objective is to raise student achievement so that every child has the opportunity to graduate from high school with the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed. The second objective is to provide school districts with the assistance necessary to meet challenges head-on and to turn a good public school system into a great public school system.

## Public Schools

The General Fund original appropriation for public schools increased by 5.5 percent for fiscal year 2007, from \$987.1 million to \$1.0 billion. The total appropriation, including all funds, increased by 5.8 percent over the original fiscal year 2006 appropriation, from roughly \$1.2 billion to more than \$1.3 billion.

Minimum teacher salary was increased from \$27,500 to \$30,000 and base salaries were increased by 3 percent for teachers, administrators, and classified staff. The Legislature also funded 260 new support units for fiscal year 2007 in an effort to address near record breaking enrollment growth. The graph reflects the increase in employee compensation from 2002 to 2007.

## Higher Education

For fiscal year 2008 the four institutions in the State's college and university system received a 5.8 percent increase in appropriations from fiscal year 2007. The increased appropriation consists of funding for replacement items, overhead costs, and a 5 percent increase in employee compensation.

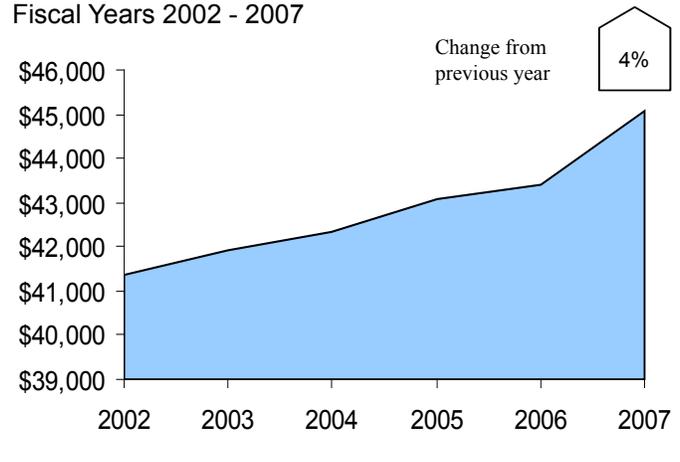
The State's two community colleges also received an increase of 6.6 percent in fiscal year 2008 appropriations from fiscal year 2007. This appropriation will go towards replacement items, a 5 percent increase in employee compensation, and enrollment workload adjustment.

## Nursing Assistance

Boise State University received authorization to construct a Student Health, Wellness, and Counseling Center/Department of Nursing Building. Additionally, the Legislature approved the creation of the Nursing Workforce Advisory Council and the Workforce Center to study Idaho's nursing needs. By taking advantage of research, incentive, and educational programs the State intends to address the current and future nursing shortage.

### Average Certified Staff Salary for Idaho Public Schools

Fiscal Years 2002 - 2007



Data Source: Department of Education statistical reports