

# Education Discussion Forum

Meeting Notes | August 20, 2020

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I D A H O



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## Updates from the State Board of Ed

The first Education Discussion Forum of the 2020-2021 academic year covered unique adaptations to the 4-year-old Direct Admissions initiative and the landmark Apply Idaho website. The Idaho State Board of Education College and Career Advising Program Manager, Byron Yankey, took more than 200 counselors and college admissions professionals through the necessary innovations. There will now be two phases of the Apply Idaho process. Starting September 15, students will be able to login to Apply Idaho, create and verify their account, and gain access to their Direct Admissions letter. That letter will offer a list of (either 6 or 8) Idaho public schools that the student will be accepted at, should they care to enroll. Students then have two weeks (or longer) to do some research and/or self-reflection. The ability to submit a free, common application to one or more (or all) of the 10 participating schools will open on October 1.

Yankey mentioned that Idaho's first virtual college fair would be held at the end of September, and students may wish to attend *that* before submitting their application(s). Details will be shared at the Sept. 3 Ed Forum.

View the full [webinar recording](#) or [PowerPoint](#).

## Q&A Transcript

### Does the state pay for the fee for the national clearinghouse for school districts to submit the data to them?

The State of Idaho pays for all public high schools in Idaho and all districts for the Student Tracker Program. The State Board of Education in-office contact for this service is Andy Mehl. If you do not already have access to this service, you can contact Andy at (208) 332-1586 or email him at [andy.mehl@osbe.idaho.gov](mailto:andy.mehl@osbe.idaho.gov)

### When is the state hosting SAT day this fall?

The SDE website says that the SAT will be offered on 9/23/20 and 10/14/20. There will be a make-up on 10/27/20. Find out more [here](#).

### I'm wondering if our private Idaho schools are still requiring SAT/ACT?

Each institution is making its own decision regarding college entrance exams. By Sept. 15 we will be adding pages for NNU, BYU-I, and C of I to the [Next Steps Idaho College Directory](#). Information specific to their fall recruitment and admission plans will be included on each institution's page under "FAQs."



### **Would it be appropriate for a student to sign up for the Next Steps Idaho newsletter?**

At this time the Next Steps Newsletter is designed with content for counselors and admissions professionals. There has been an internal discussion regarding creating a newsletter with content for students. Stay tuned for a final decision.

If you'd like to sign up for the current Next Steps Newsletter, use [this link](#).

### **Is there a live link for an archive of this webinar? If not, will you be sending it later to all of today's attendees?**

You will find a link from today's record posts on the [Next Steps Idaho Educator Communications and Curriculum Archive](#). The link will also be sent along with an invitation to register for next Thursday's Education Discussion Forum: Idaho College Preview.

## **Direct Admissions**

### **Did you say students will be able to log into Apply Idaho starting Sept 15th to see their letter?**

Yes. Phase I will start on Sept. 15 and run through Sept. 30. At this time students will be able to create an Apply Idaho account to view their letter. They will be able to print their later to share with their parents. Students will need

to remember their password so that when Phase II starts on Oct. 1 they can log back in and submit their application(s).

### **Could school districts actually print the letters and mail them out?**

If a district would like to print and mail letters to their Seniors they can. Here would be the steps:

- a. A counselor would need to login to [FAFSAweb](#) and download their student list which includes a column indicating which letter a student will see upon logging into Apply Idaho.
- b. Both the letter of 6 and the letter of 8 (in English and Spanish) will be posted [here](#) on the Next Steps Idaho website. Schools can download these letters and print copies.

### **I know you said, but I missed it. But the state will not be mailing direct admissions letters this year? Students will only see them by creating an account and logging into Apply Idaho?**

Correct.

The state does not have mailing addresses for students this year since the Spring SAT Day was canceled. Students will access their Direct Admissions letter by creating an Apply Idaho account, verifying that account, and logging in.



## Upcoming Forums

Follow the registration links below to save your seat.

**Aug 27, 2020; Idaho College Preview**

**Sept 3, 2020; Next Steps Month**

## Education Discussion Forum

### What were the dates for the virtual college fair?

The Next Steps Idaho Virtual College Fair (hosted by OSBE, CTE, and Gear Up) will be held on Sept. 29, Sept. 30, and Oct. 1 from 8 AM–8 PM MT. After the event, students will be able to access the college and university booths as well as on-demand, global information sessions for the remainder of Oct.

Information on how to register and more day-of-event details will be provided in the Sept. 3 Education Discussion Forum.

## Apply Idaho

### Will any of the Apply Idaho schools be requiring SAT or ACT scores?

The State Board extended the waiver for college entrance exam requirements at their Aug. 3 meeting. The Board action means that all of Idaho's postsecondary institutions can waive the college entrance exam admissions requirement for students seeking admission to college next year.

However, some institutions *may* still require a college entrance exam score for admissions or financial aid decisions. Prospective students are encouraged to reach out to institutions directly to determine if a college entrance exam score will be required. Updates on individual institution decisions regarding SAT/ACT will be posted under the FAQ section of each school's page on the ***Next Steps Idaho College Directory***.

### I didn't hear -- Apply Idaho's application part will open October 1st??

Yes, Phase II of Apply Idaho (where students can submit applications to all of Idaho's public institutions along with NNU and C of I for free) will open Oct. 1, 2020.



### **Did you say that it is encouraged for students to start applying October 1st?**

The application portion of Apply Idaho will open for students to submit applications on Oct. 1, 2020. Students are encouraged to do their research, and it may be beneficial to attend the Next Steps Idaho Virtual College Fair before they make any decisions or apply to their chosen school(s). That being said, many financial aid packages can be first come, first served so the sooner students apply the more options they might have.

### **What day will the Apply Idaho be open and ready for students to apply?**

As stated above, the application portion (Phase II) of Apply Idaho will open to students on Oct. 1, 2020. They will have until Jun. 30, 2021 to submit their application(s) to any of Idaho's public institutions along with NNU and C of I for free.

### **Is there going to be a schedule posted with instructions and recommended times for having student access Apply Idaho?**

Not formally. However, you can join us for the Sept. 3 Education Discussion Forum to preview the new Apply Idaho how-to video, along with a PDF showing the institution-specific application questions. Options for participating in October's College Application Month will also be shared at that time.

### **FAFSAWeb**

**Do you have a FAFSAWeb link? Last year's link is dead.**

*[Click here to access FAFSAWeb.](#)*

We recommend at least one staff member from your school create a FAFSAWeb account this year to track student-level FAFSA Completion, find out which institutions your students are applying to via Apply Idaho and identify which Direct Admission letter your students have received. **Sign up today!** If you already have an account but can't remember your password, take advantage of the **Forgot Password** option on the login page.

### **The link you provided still doesn't work.**

During the webinar today (Aug 20) many attendees experienced a slow response time from the FAFSAWeb site. Rest assured, our programmer was able to identify the issue and rebooted the server—timely response times have been restored.



## Next Steps Idaho

### Will students be able to save results and come back to them later through an account?

Our big development project during 2020-21 will be to create individual student portfolios accounts as well as school administration accounts. Look for those to be ready next August.

This year student can save their High School learning plan activities to their Google Drive, computer general drive or thumb drive. They can also email a link to their complete activities. Students can download and save a PDF of their results from all of the new tools and assessments, and even save a list of their favorite scholarships from the [Next Steps Idaho Scholarship Listing](#).

### Is Future Finder still limited to majors only available in Idaho?

Future Finder's user experience and name have been updated. In addition, students can view the results of their best-fit occupations. Next Steps Idaho will continue to update the results with program information from both Idaho and national institutions.