Dear Parent/Guardian,

We have received your request to have your child opt out of the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT)—sometimes referred to as SBAC. As a school district, we do not have the authority to honor your request. We work under the laws established by the State of Idaho, and those laws clearly require our students to participate in the State’s standardized testing program.

Idaho Law is unique in that there is a provision of the Idaho Administrative Code—found in the Idaho Administrative Procedures Act (IDAPA)—that requires Idaho Public School children to participate in the state’s assessment program. The following is the section from IDAPA that addresses assessment in public schools:

111. **ASSESSMENT IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

01. **Philosophy.** Acquiring the basic skills is essential to realization of full educational, vocational and persona/social development. Since Idaho schools are responsible for instruction in the basic scholastic skills, the State Board of Education has a vested interest in regularly surveying student skill acquisition as an index of the effectiveness of the educational program. This information can best be secured through objective assessment of student growth. The State Board of Education will provide oversight for all components of the comprehensive assessment program.

03 **Content.** The comprehensive assessment program will consist of multiple assessments, including the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI), the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), the Idaho English Language Assessment, the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT), the Idaho Alternate Assessment and a college entrance exam.

04. **Testing Population.** **All students in Idaho public schools, grades kindergartens through twelve (K-12) are required to participate in the comprehensive assessment program approved by the State Board of Education and funded**. (Emphasis added)

In addition, Idaho Administrative Code requires students to achieve a proficient or advanced score on the grade ten (10) Idaho Standards Achievement Test in order to graduate from high school (IDAPA 08.02.03.105.06).

Idaho has taken important steps to ensure information about students is protected. The Idaho Data and Accountability and Accessibility Act of 2014 was created at least in part as a response to the concerns parents had regarding student data generated from standardized assessments. Idaho now has a specific law that protects student data and prohibits its use for many purposes.

As previously stated, in order to ensure compliance with Idaho Administrative Code, all students enrolled in West Ada School District during the statewide testing dates of March 30 through May 22 are required to participate in the ISAT.

Sincerely,

Jackie Thomason

*Director of Assessment and Accountability*