



Quality by Design

B L U U M 20
17

Annual Report



WE BELIEVE

that school choice helps families, children, and educators achieve more and do better.

WE ARE COMMITTED

to ensuring that Idaho's children reach their fullest potential by cultivating great leaders and innovative schools.

ABOUT BLUUM

Bluum is a nonprofit organization helping Idaho become a national model for how to maximize learning opportunities for children and families.

Bluum empowers and supports educators who take risks and put children first by:

- Developing innovative leaders
- Growing successful school models
- Sharing research and learning innovations
- Providing school support and management help

INTRODUCTION

We care deeply about helping create and support high-quality schools across Idaho. It doesn't matter to us whether they're private, charter public, or district innovation. We are committed to what we call the '20 in 10' strategy; creating 20,000 new high-performing Idaho school seats in 10 years (2024).

This is why we seek out, vet, and support innovative leaders and high-performing school models; '20 in 10' schools are quality by design. Quality is our focus, because quality is what counts. In other words, Bluum is governance-neutral. We support promising models with technical assistance, grant funding, talent recruitment and development, help securing a facility - anything it takes to provide more Idaho children with a world-class education.

Of the 13 schools in our cohort, we want to introduce three new schools we're supporting; two that opened in August 2017, and one that will open in 2018. Taken together, they embody the Bluum theory of action. One is a private Catholic school in Meridian. Another is a new charter public school located in Garden City. The third is an innovation school, meaning it is part of the Nampa School District, but operating with charter-like autonomy.

All three schools offer unique educational models that we believe will serve Idaho children well. What's more, they are all replicable, so that once they've demonstrated a record of success, they can open new campuses elsewhere in the state.



'20 IN 10' SCHOOLS ARE QUALITY BY DESIGN.
QUALITY IS OUR FOCUS BECAUSE
QUALITY IS WHAT COUNTS.



These are homegrown models and an important part of the story. Bluum is open to supporting national charter management organizations with proven track records that wish to operate in Idaho. Programs developed locally, whose founders have a deep understanding of the culture of our state and the needs of its children, are the best possible leaders for a new generation of excellent schools.

Finally, all three schools have a deep commitment to serving a diverse student body. They seek out and welcome children of all ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Here's a quick introduction to the three schools.

St. Ignatius Catholic School

Located within the boundaries of the West Ada School District, Idaho's largest, St. Ignatius opened in the fall of 2017 with 410 students in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. Ultimately, the school will educate 488 pre-K-8 students.



St. Ignatius, connected to the Holy Apostles parish, is the first new Catholic school to open in the Treasure Valley in more than 50 years. STEM education — which focuses on science, technology, engineering, and math, is an increasingly popular model. The STEAM model adds arts to the mix. But St. Ignatius takes this one step further. Principal Andi Kane describes her school model as STREAM, with the 'R' standing for religious education, a key component of a St. Ignatius education.

St. Ignatius is a high-tech school that develops 21st century skills while grounding its instruction in religious, moral, and ethical teachings that date back two millennia. Students work in multi-age classrooms, blending the use of technology and learning under the guidance of experienced teachers.



The impressive new facility that houses St. Ignatius features flexible learning spaces, built through a multi-year \$11 million capital campaign. Over 60 percent of the parish community of 2,900 donated to the fundraising effort. One wall in each classroom is a garage-style door that opens to a shared pod space in the hall. This space can be used by one class when more space is needed, or across classrooms when they are collaborating.

St. Ignatius Principal Andi Kane and her leadership team developed the school's approach and curriculum working closely with Bluum and Boston-based consulting group Bellwether Education Partners. Bluum used its national connections to make introductions and facilitate the school development process.

Both Bluum and Bellwether have experience in developing innovative, successful education models. They provided St. Ignatius school leaders with research, guidance, and the opportunity to visit schools around the country to learn about and observe successful school models in action. Andi and her team were then able take the best of everything learned and observed, and incorporate the particular elements determined to fit best with their community, mission, and philosophy, into the structure of their school.

"Bluum's multifaceted levels of support have contributed greatly to the success of our school's startup," Kane says. "Without their support, it would have been tempting to fall back on the way things have always been done."

"There simply would not have been the time or resources to push the boundaries of the traditional Catholic school model in the ways we have. Personally, Bluum's support has allowed me to bring my dream of building a modern, innovative Catholic school to life."

Bluum also helped St. Ignatius secure grants totaling \$1.2 million from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation. A portion of this grant support, \$150,000, is for tuition assistance for needs-based students, and will be matched 1:1 by the school's community.

Treasure Valley Leadership Academy

Treasure Valley Leadership Academy (TVLA) is a new, small innovation high school in the Nampa School District which launched in August 2017 with a class of 40 ninth-graders. It will add a grade each year until it is a four-year, 600-student high school by 2022.

Innovation schools are new to Idaho, the result of a law passed in March 2016 that allows school districts to grant schools "flexibility from laws and policies that impede local autonomy, allowing them to be agile, innovative and empowered to adopt to local circumstances."

When Nampa's school board approved TVLA and one other innovation school in mid-2016, then-superintendent David Peterson hailed the moment as important not only to the District but to the entire state of Idaho.

According to the Idaho Press-Tribune, Peterson told his board that:

"This is an extraordinary case of kid-centered decision making. It makes some adults nervous, and it challenges current bureaucratic systems and structures, but it is a clear path for schools to better meet the needs of their kids."

What makes TVLA unique in Idaho is its student-centered focus. While this may sound like educational jargon, it carries real meaning at TVLA. "The most important part of our mission is the desire to adjust the school to the student, rather than making students adjust to the school," said Emmett Wemp, TVLA's founding principal.

"When students' educational needs can be met in innovative ways," Wemp argues, "we will see higher student engagement, success and an overall increase in student achievement."

**INNOVATION
SCHOOLS
ARE NEW TO
IDAHO, THE
RESULT OF A
LAW PASSED IN
MARCH 2016.**





One way TVLA accomplishes this degree of personalization is through the use of a highly regarded, personalized online learning platform called Summit Learning. Using this platform “students can work at their own pace with the guidance of teacher-mentors,” Wemp said. Wemp credits Bluum with helping TVLA open with a strong start.



“Bluum has organized leadership development opportunities that have effectively brought me together with other education innovators in Idaho. Because of this opportunity, I have been able to expand my network of thinking partners which has encouraged the design process of our school,” he said.

Future Public School

Future Public School’s opening day is set for late August 2018, but its two leaders are busy preparing for a smooth opening. At maximum capacity, Future Public School will enroll 576 students in grades K-8. It plans to open with 256 students in kindergarten through third grade, adding a grade each year thereafter. It will be located in Garden City, within the boundaries of the Boise Independent School District.

Future Public School will draw from an area with a large population of low-income, diverse students and families, which aligns with its mission and vision to provide more equitable educational opportunities for all students. Like TVLA, Future Public School will feature student-centered learning. “Students learn with authentic, engaging projects in comfortable, personalized learning environments. Time and space are flexible,” is the way school founders Amanda Cox and Brad Petersen describe their approach.

“STUDENTS LEARN WITH AUTHENTIC, ENGAGING PROJECTS IN COMFORTABLE, PERSONALIZED LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.”



The school’s vision is to “equip students with the knowledge, skills and character to succeed in college and the future world.” That means preparing kids for a vastly different future, where, 30 years from now, 60 percent of current jobs

won’t exist. To do this, Future Public School will place emphasis on rigor in the STEM fields, and also on crucial soft skills like collaboration, creativity, communication, and critical thinking.

Bluum created the Idaho New School Fellowship that selected Cox and Petersen from 44 candidates across 13 states in late 2015. Cox, a four-year Teach for America corps member in rural North Carolina, also worked for TFA in South Carolina as director of teacher leadership development. Cox was born and raised in eastern Washington, and is a Harvard graduate. Petersen was born and raised in northern Nevada, and graduated from BYU Idaho. He taught and designed curriculum for the highly successful KIPP charter schools in Houston.

The two-year fellowship, which included full participation in the KIPP Fisher Fellowship, provided Cox and Petersen (pictured right) with advanced leadership training and access to the local expertise needed to launch a successful school in an underserved Idaho community. This included help developing a financial model, start-up funding, access to experts in charter school facilities, navigating the charter school authorizing process, and hands-on residencies in high-performing charter schools in Idaho and across the country.

In addition to support from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation, the educational duo has received support from New Schools Venture Fund, The Louis Calder Foundation and 4.0 Schools' Tiny and Pathway fellowships.

THESE NEW '20 IN 10' SCHOOLS WILL MAKE AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE THEY EDUCATE IN THE COMING YEARS.

There are strong schools in Idaho, these among them, but there's a great deal of room for growth and innovation. We believe that by being governance-neutral and keeping what our children need front and center, we can spark real, significant change and improvement to Idaho education.

'20 IN 10' PARTNER SCHOOLS

Table 1 (page 6) provides the current '20 in 10' list of schools, by school type, by year they joined the cohort, their grant support amount, and the number of new seats they are committed to opening. Highlighted schools have completed their expected growth and have concluded their '20 in 10' grant support; they are the first '20 in 10' alumni.



TABLE 1: Past and Current ‘20 in 10’ Partner Schools and Expected Growth

SCHOOL + COMMUNITY	SCHOOL TYPE	GRANT YEAR	GRANT AMOUNT	NEW SEATS
North Idaho STEM Charter Academy – Rathdrum	Charter Public	2014	\$450,000	372
Sage International School of Boise	Charter Public	2014	\$750,000	530
Upper Carmen Charter School	Charter School	2015	\$123,015	45
Compass Charter School – Meridian	Charter Public	2015	\$1,093,220	478
Gem Prep: Pocatello*	Charter Public	2015	\$1,390,200	582
Gem Prep: Nampa*	Charter Public	2015	\$1,916,100	582
Gem Prep: Meridian*	Charter Public	2015	\$1,295,200	582
Idaho Arts Charter School – Nampa	Charter Public	2015	\$1,546,230	582
Alturas International Academy – Idaho Falls	Charter Public	2016	\$1,000,000	538
Grace Lutheran High School – Pocatello	Private Religious	2016	\$250,000	300
Treasure Valley Leadership Academy - Nampa	District Innovation	2016	\$1,000,000	600
Pathways in Education - Nampa	Charter Public	2016	\$775,000	300
St. Ignatius Catholic School – Meridian	Private Religious	2017	\$1,200,000	488

*Operated by Gem Innovation Schools, Idaho’s homegrown Charter Management Organization.

 **TOTAL GRANT MONEY AWARDED:**
12,788,965

 **PLANNED NEW SEATS:**
5,979

All told, these partner schools have committed themselves to providing over 5,975 new school seats, and as a collective have garnered commitments of about \$12.75 million in direct grant support from the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation. As a cohort, these schools have also received an additional \$1.7 million in total grant support from the Charter School Growth Fund, Louis Calder Foundation, New School Venture Fund and 4.0 Schools.

Several of these schools have worked with the nonprofit Building Hope to construct \$50 million in new or renovated buildings in Pocatello, Nampa, Meridian, Boise and Idaho Falls.

BUILDING HOPE

Effective schools need quality school facilities to support their academic mission, and to meet the needs of their students. Facilities are a major pain point for Idaho's charter public schools. While charter public schools in Idaho receive all state and federal dollars afforded district public schools, they do not have access to local levy or bond dollars.

Thus, the typical charter public school in Idaho receives about \$1,490 less per pupil than district public schools. To tackle the facility challenge for '20 in 10' schools, Bluum is partnering with Building Hope, a national, nonprofit lender and turn-key real estate developer.



Building Hope is expert at delivering state-of-the-art educational facilities to charter public school students across the country. In 2017, Building Hope, with Bluum staff providing financial analysis and underwriting support, launched three Idaho facility projects totaling about \$25 million. In total, about 110,000 square feet of new school space will allow Future Public School, Gem Prep: Nampa, and Gem Prep: Meridian to educate over 1,700 Idaho students.

Building Hope has led '20 in 10' partner schools in developing their architectural plans, identifying appropriate locations, securing project financing, and managing design and construction phases. Dru Damico, Vice President for Real Estate Development says,

"Building Hope is dedicated to providing quality, innovative facilities to Idaho students, and this is demonstrated through these three current projects. We are proud to partner with Bluum and the J.A. and Kathryn Albertson Family Foundation."



ABOUT 110,000 SQUARE FEET OF NEW SCHOOL SPACE WILL ALLOW FUTURE PUBLIC SCHOOL, GEM PREP: NAMPA, AND GEM PREP: MERIDIAN TO EDUCATE OVER 1,700 IDAHO STUDENTS.



Future Public School in Garden City (left) is a project design unique to Idaho, with a 3-story urban design that is integrated into the community around it. At full enrollment Future will serve 576 students in grades K-8.



Gem Prep: Nampa (lower left) focuses on shared space to provide maximum flexibility for student learning. At full enrollment Gem Prep: Nampa will educate 582 students in grades K-12.

Gem Prep: Meridian transitions a previously built educational facility into a hub for innovative blended learning. At full enrollment Gem Prep: Meridian will educate 582 students in grades K-12.

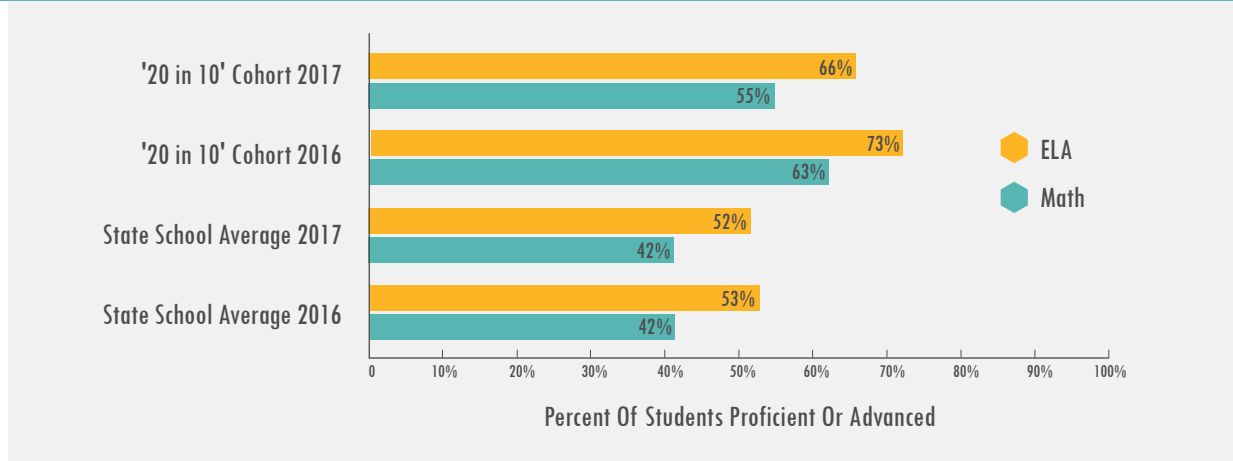
Previous Building Hope projects in Idaho include: Alturas International Academy, Vision Charter School, Sage International School, and Connor Academy.

YEAR TWO ACADEMIC RESULTS FOR '20 IN 10' COHORT STUDENTS

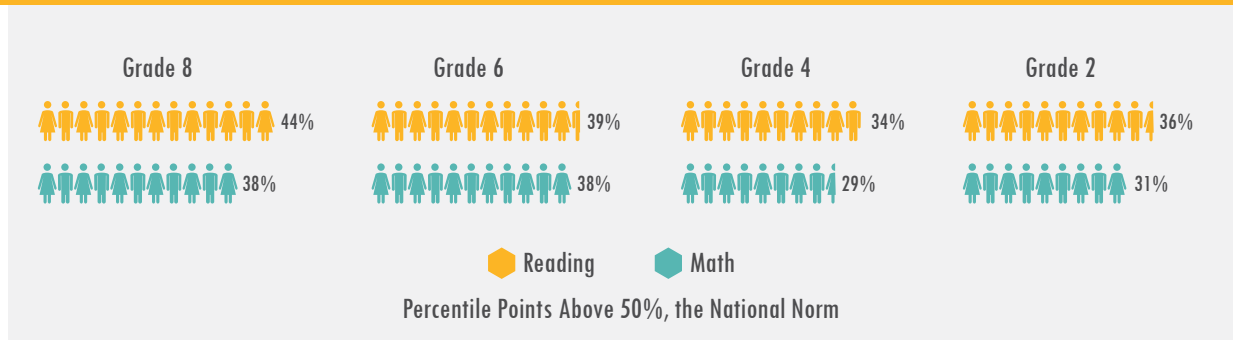
In the early stages of the '20 in 10' program the academic performance of the students in these schools has been solid. However, it is important to note we only have two years of data. Some of these schools are adding significant numbers of new students and new grades each year, and there are limitations in both the state data due to redaction rules that impact certain grades and subjects,¹ and the Northwest Evaluation Association's Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) data, since we don't test all grades in every school.

With these limitations in mind, students in '20 in 10' charter public schools outperformed state public school averages on the Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) by significant margins in both 2016 and 2017 (Graph 1).² As these schools grow and add more students we have seen a decline in the overall ISAT test scores for both ELA and math from 2016 to 2017. This is to be expected as these schools add dozens or hundreds more students; there is an adjustment period as they work to bring these additional students into a new academic culture and instructional program.

GRAPH 1: Achievement on ISAT in ELA & Math over Two Years



GRAPH 2: NWEA MAP Math and Reading for '20 in 10' Cohort 2016-2017



A portion of students in '20 in 10' schools participate in NWEA MAP assessments in both math and reading, which is a national measure taken by over 8 million students yearly. In 2016-17, there were 2,719 students in '20 in 10' schools that took the MAP assessment in math and 2,704 who tested in reading (Graph 2).

THESE STUDENTS **OUTPERFORMED NATIONAL AVERAGES** ON MAP BY 29 OR MORE PERCENTILE POINTS IN MATH AND 34 OR MORE PERCENTILE POINTS IN READING.

Graph 2 shows how these students performed on the NWEA Map nationally normed assessment.³

'20 in 10' Partner Schools

Alturas International Academy

SCHOOL TYPE: Charter Public
LOCATION: Idaho Falls
GRADES SERVED: K-8
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT: \$1,000,000 over five years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT: 538 new seats



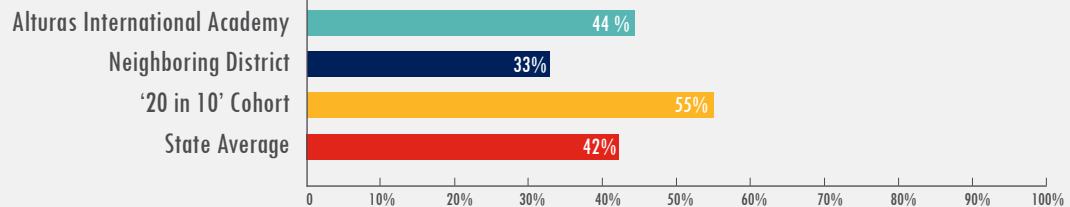
ABOUT THE SCHOOL: Alturas International Academy promotes academic distinction, while empowering students to be principled and intellectual leaders as they explore, create, investigate, and analyze in a safe, engaged, collaborative environment that inspires them to make a genuine difference in their local and global community. Chartered only two years ago, Alturas has grown rapidly. With '20 in 10' support and working closely with Building Hope, Alturas renovated and now occupies the historic O.E. Bell Building, a former

"I've been here for two years, and it's been really fun watching the school evolve. I think this has been a great opportunity to turn this building back into a school."

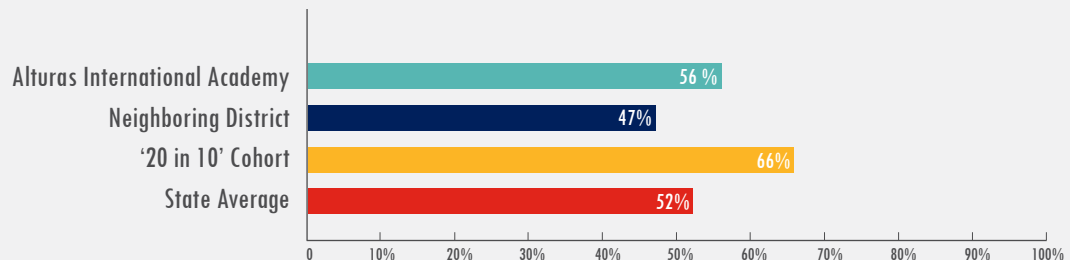
- Matt, Alturas Student, 7th Grade

district school building located in the heart of downtown Idaho Falls. This building allows Alturas to recruit and serve a diverse group of students. According to the founder, Michelle Ball, "Parents in the area didn't even know their kids could go to a charter; that it's a public school. Being in this location allows us to better communicate with these parents and help them understand how to enroll."

ISAT: Math %
Proficient or
Advanced



ISAT: ELA %
Proficient or
Advanced





Compass Public Charter School

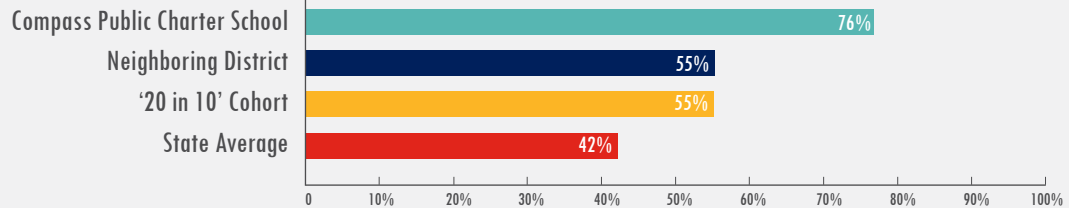
SCHOOL TYPE:	Charter Public
LOCATION:	Meridian
GRADES SERVED:	K-12
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT:	\$1,093,220 over four years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT:	478 new seats

ABOUT THE SCHOOL: Compass was opened in 2005 with the mission of preparing students for life-long excellence through exceptional academics, character development and the ability to define and defend a

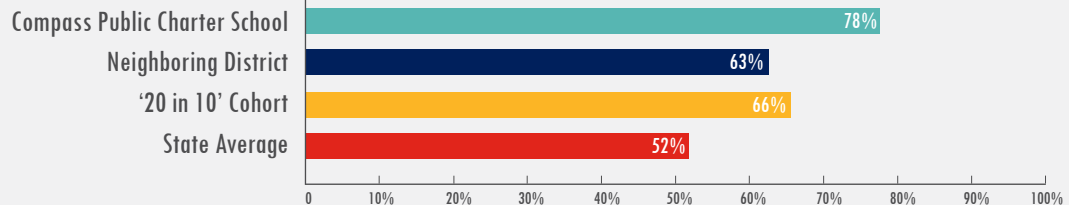
"It is rare to find a team of administrators, teachers and families who are willing to invest themselves so heavily, care so deeply, and are committed to upholding a spirit of excellence. Our four kids have been blessed beyond measure over the years. I am grateful to be a Compass parent!" - Becca, Compass Parent

personal worldview. Compass is annually one of Idaho's highest performing public schools, and was ranked in the top five of all Idaho high schools on the 2017 SAT. The number of Compass students meeting both math and reading college ready benchmarks on the test exceeded the state average by more than double – 86% of Compass students vs. 32% statewide.⁴

ISAT: Math % Proficient or Advanced



ISAT: ELA % Proficient or Advanced



Idaho Arts Charter School

SCHOOL TYPE: Charter Public
LOCATION: Nampa
GRADES SERVED: K-12
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT: \$1,546,230 over four years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT: 582 new seats

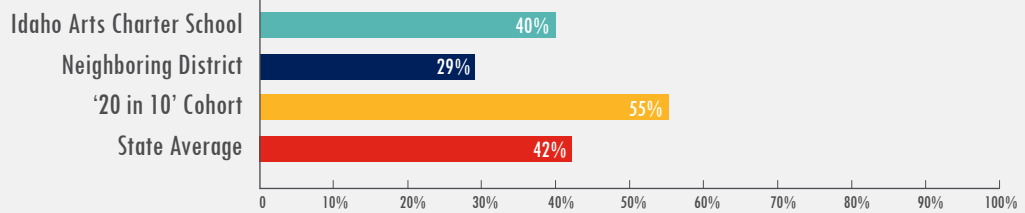


ABOUT THE SCHOOL: Idaho Arts Charter School (IACS) is Idaho's premier K-12 public arts academy. Elementary school students take part in general arts education in music and dance, and complete three thematic units or "storylines" each year that fold art into social studies, science and reading instruction. Secondary students specialize more deeply in specific arts education (e.g., piano, percussion, electric orchestra, artistic dance) and have multiple opportunities to perform. Students may compete in their chosen art, ranging from performances at the school's annual Fall Festival to state, regional, and national dance and orchestra competitions. Utilizing '20 in 10' support, Idaho Arts constructed a new 37,000 square foot elementary school with dedicated studios

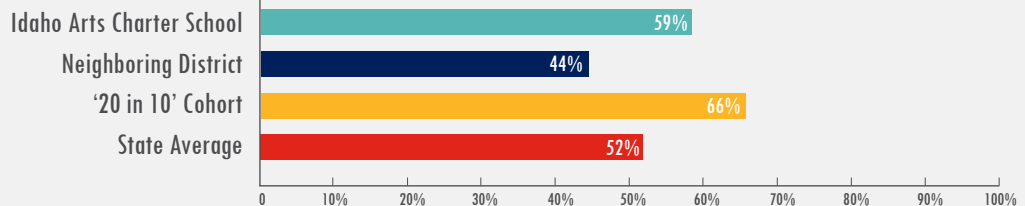
"I couldn't be happier with the way my children are growing and learning through the arts. They are offered so many wonderful opportunities and experiences that I have never seen in any other school!" - Lydia, IACS Parent

for dance, music and visual arts. The success of this model is illustrated in their SAT scores; 43% of IACS students meeting both math and reading college ready benchmarks on the test exceeded the state average by 11%, as compared with only 32% of students statewide meeting both benchmarks.⁴

ISAT: Math % Proficient or Advanced



ISAT: ELA % Proficient or Advanced





Grace Lutheran School

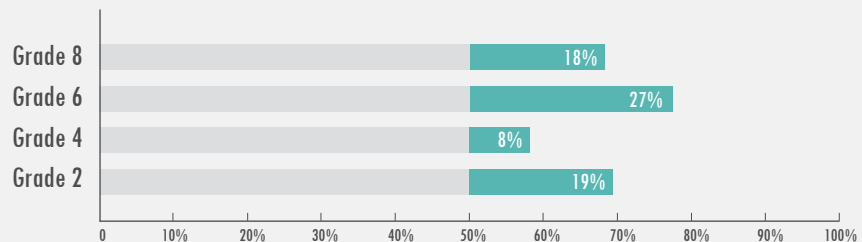
SCHOOL TYPE:	Private Religious
LOCATION:	Pocatello
GRADES SERVED:	Pre-K-10 in 2016-17; K-12 by 2019-20
ENROLLMENT:	700 by 2020
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT:	\$250,000 over three years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT:	300 new seats

ABOUT THE SCHOOL: Grace Lutheran has been operating a K-8 school for 60 years. Using '20 in 10' support, the school added a high school in August of 2016. The school's mission is "to engage students and their families with excellence in every facet of their education; equip students with the highest levels of skills in multiple disciplines which will propel them to be effective in their future vocations and in all of life." Grace Lutheran is part of a nationwide network of Lutheran schools and universities. It has a long track record of educational excellence. Additionally, the school provides scholarships for roughly 30 students annually to provide opportunities for a diverse population of students.

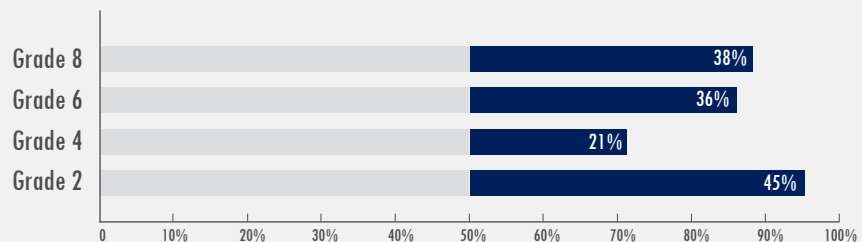
"In order for a parent to make an informed decision about the best school for their child they should visit a number of schools. For many, Grace Lutheran will be the school of choice. I've personally met the staff, seen the expectations of students, and have full confidence that GLHS will deliver on its promises."

- Gabe, Grace Lutheran Parent

**NWEA: Math %
Above National
Average**



**NWEA: Reading %
Above National
Average**



Percentile Points Above 50%, the National Norm³
ISAT not used⁵



Gem Innovation Schools

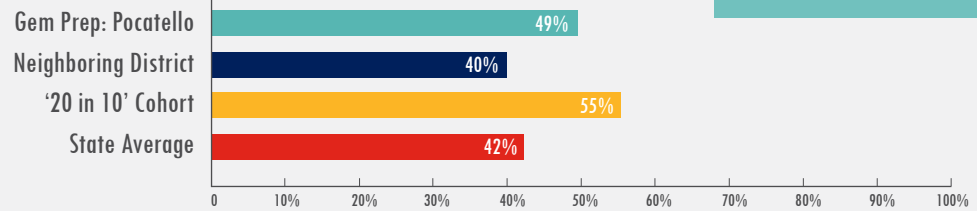
SCHOOL TYPE:	Charter Management Organization
LOCATION:	Pocatello, Nampa, Meridian, and Statewide Virtual
GRADES SERVED:	I-DEA K-12, Gem K-4 in 2016-17, K-12 by 2022-23
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT:	\$4,601,500 over five years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT:	478 new seats

ABOUT THE SCHOOL: Gem Innovation Schools is Idaho's first home-grown charter management organization. Founded in 2004 as the Idaho Distance Education Academy (I-DEA), a K-12 online school, Gem Innovation launched its first brick-and-mortar school, Gem Prep: Pocatello in 2014. Gem Prep: Nampa launched in 2016, and Gem Prep: Meridian will begin serving students in Fall 2018. Gem's brick-and-mortar schools follow a unique blended learning model; a 'station rotation' format, in which students move through three different stations during a 90-minute block.

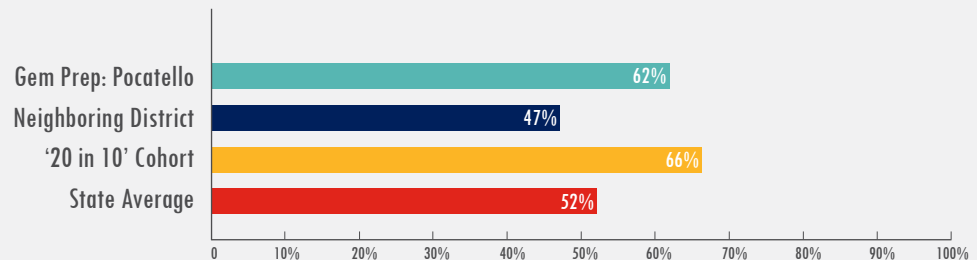
"This school has been amazing for my boys. All the teachers truly care about every student succeeding and individualize their learning. I have one child who gets to be challenged while the other who struggles is supported. Love this school." - Nicole, Gem Prep Parent

Each station uses a different learning method; computer-adaptive software, direct instruction from the teacher, and the third station varies from day-to-day. It can include independent work, additional small group work, or extra tutoring.

ISAT: Math %
Proficient or
Advanced

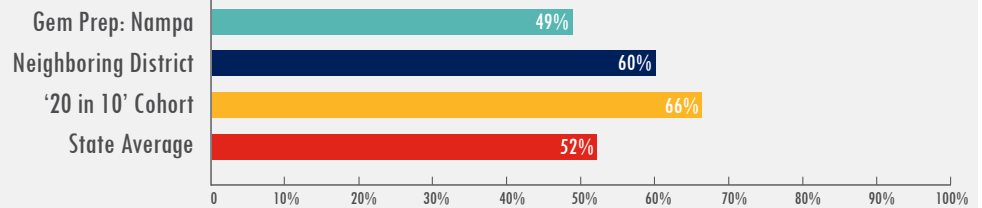
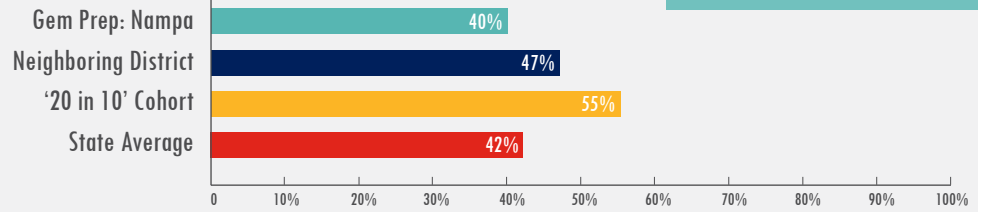


ISAT: ELA %
Proficient or
Advanced



ISAT: Math %
Proficient or
Advanced

ISAT: ELA %
Proficient or
Advanced



Treasure Valley Leadership Academy

SCHOOL TYPE:	District Innovation
LOCATION:	Nampa
GRADES SERVED:	9 th in 2017-18, 9-12 by 2020
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT:	\$1,000,000 over two years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT:	600 new seats



ABOUT THE SCHOOL: Treasure Valley Leadership Academy (TVLA) is Idaho's first innovation high school. It operates in the Nampa School District. Innovation schools are new to Idaho, the result of a law passed in March 2016 that allows up to ten public schools a year to receive flexibility from laws and policies that impede local autonomy, allowing them to be agile, innovative and empowered to adapt to local circumstances.

TVLA launched at the start of the 2017-18 school year with a class of 40 ninth-graders. It will add a grade each year until it is a four-year, 600-student high school. The school is committed to allowing students to be pace-setters of their own learning experience through a mastery-based model that utilizes information technology to question the concepts of seat-time, student advancement by age, use of staff and even hours of operation.

Treasure Valley Leadership Academy launched as a new school in the Fall of 2017 and does not yet have annual performance data. Data will be gathered and provided in subsequent years.





Pathways in Education: Nampa

SCHOOL TYPE:	Charter Management Organization
LOCATION:	Nampa
GRADES SERVED:	9-12
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT:	\$775,000 over two years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT:	300 new seats

ABOUT THE SCHOOL: Pathways in Education (PIE), while new to Idaho, is a well-established education provider that has helped high school students who have dropped out, or are at risk of dropping out, get back on track to graduation in California, Illinois, and Tennessee. Pathways blends in-person instruction and assessment with independent study to provide a flexible and supportive learning environment. Pathways Nampa Principal Susan Lux explains, "The teachers at PIE understand and believe in the vision and mission of our school. The staff builds individual learning plans for each of their students, and assists them in developing individualized goals based on these plans." *Pathways in Education: Nampa launched as a new school in the Fall of 2017 and does not yet have annual performance data. Data will be gathered and provided in subsequent years.*

"Watching the students develop trust in their teachers and in their new school has been very rewarding. The students trust that we are providing a safe place for them to reengage in school." - Susan Lux, Principal



St. Ignatius Catholic School

SCHOOL TYPE:	Private Religious
LOCATION:	Meridian
GRADES SERVED:	Pre-K-8
'20 IN 10' INVESTMENT:	\$1,100,000 over three years
'20 IN 10' IMPACT:	488 new seats

ABOUT THE SCHOOL: In August, Holy Apostles Church opened the doors of St. Ignatius Catholic School, the first new Catholic School in the Treasure Valley in over 50 years. The Holy Apostles Church community demonstrated strong support for the vision of the school by raising over \$11 million to fund the construction of a state-of-the-art school building. '20 in 10' grant funds supported the St. Ignatius Catholic School team in the development of a blended, inquiry-based approach that also incorporates elements of project-based learning, STEM, flexible instructional groupings and multi-aged classrooms. While the Ingatian education model builds on traditions going back centuries, the St. Ignatius Catholic School model is likely the first in the country - certainly in Idaho - to fully embrace core concepts associated with 21st century learning. *St. Ignatius Catholic School launched as a new school in the Fall of 2017 and does not yet have annual performance data. Data will be gathered and provided in subsequent years.*

Bluum's support has allowed me to bring my dream of building a modern, innovative Catholic school to life." - Andi Kane, Principal

IDAHO NEW SCHOOL FELLOWS

The Idaho New School Fellowship targets Idaho's neediest students (those attending schools with 70 percent or greater free and reduced-price lunch rates) by providing educational leaders with the advanced leadership training and local expertise needed to launch a successful school. Idaho New School Fellows are empowered to plan, develop and launch a high-performing public school in an underserved Idaho community.

2017: Monica & Matt | Elevate Academy

In July of 2017 the second cohort of Idaho New School Fellows was selected. Monica White and Matt Strong are outstanding veteran educators who are widely recognized for their innovative, community oriented efforts that benefit at-risk students. They resigned from their positions in the Caldwell School District after a decade of service to launch Elevate Academy in 2019.

They are committed to creating a system of excellence for traditionally underserved students through a career technical education charter public school model. Partnering with local industry, Elevate Academy intends to train and create a pipeline of highly-skilled, employable workers that meet the needs of Idaho industry and business. Elevate Academy students will be exposed to college-readiness and dual-credit opportunities through local community college partnerships.



Meet Monica White

Monica has served the students of Idaho as a teacher, coach and administrator for the past 17 years. She graduated from Boise State University with her Bachelor's Degree in Education. She taught physical education in the New Plymouth School district for seven years. During this time, she was awarded the first Carol M. White Physical Education for Progress (PEP) grant in the state of Idaho. Monica was a three-sport coach at New Plymouth, served on the 3rd district coaches board and was awarded accolades for her work.



MONICA IS MOST PROUD OF RECEIVING THE NEW PLYMOUTH SCHOOL DISTRICT
TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD IN 2005.

Monica received her Master's in Education Leadership from Montana State University. She was hired by the Caldwell School district as a middle school administrator in 2007. She served as both vice-principal and principal before being recruited to work at the district office.

Monica found her true calling when she became principal of Canyon Springs Alternative School in Caldwell. She believes in empowering people, and moving staff and students to do their best work in all circumstances. At Canyon Springs, Monica received a PEP grant and transformed Caldwell's K-12 physical education program for over 6,000 students. She served on several committees, was a visionary for systemic change both in her school and for the district.

Monica was instrumental in starting Idaho's first peer court. She is an advocate for restorative justice and guided second chances. Monica is a respected thought leader in the psychology of at-risk youth and has developed curriculum to help students transition from a victim mentality to a mentality of responsibility; empowering young people to take ownership of their own lives.

Meet Matt Strong

Matt is a long-time educator and coach. He graduated from Eastern Oregon University where he received his Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology. He continued his education at Boise State University where he received his Idaho teaching credential. In 2009 Matt received his Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from The University of Phoenix. Matt became Canyon Springs Alternative High School's vice-principal in 2011. This is where Matt discovered his true calling of working with at-risk youth. Matt perseveres to "find a way" for every student he has ever encountered.



Matt is a pillar in the Caldwell community. He has served on numerous boards and serves as a football coach at the College of Idaho. Matt was the leader who formed Go-Purple; the group that connected the larger Treasure Valley community to the College of Idaho. Matt has been a driving force in building efforts to improve the city of Caldwell for all with his grassroots movement, Caldwell Proud. His efforts include a partnership with the Lions Club in acquiring and transforming a Caldwell park that needed improvements for the benefit of children in the area.

MATT BELIEVES IN HELPING ALL PEOPLE MEET THEIR MAXIMUM POTENTIAL. HE IS A MASTER AT BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A SCHOOL CULTURE THAT LEADS TO EXCELLENCE. HE HAS SPOKEN AT LOCAL AND NATIONAL EDUCATION CONFERENCES ON THE TOPIC "IT'S ALL ABOUT CULTURE." MATT IS A VISIONARY, A LEADER, AND AN ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN EVERYWHERE.



2016: Amanda & Brad | Future Public School

Selected in 2015 from a pool of 44 applicants from 13 states, the 2016 Idaho New School Fellows are now into year two of their Fellowship. Hours of travel, research, networking, planning, and passion through the first year of their Fellowship have yielded a school model as unique as the Garden City community it will serve. The newly-chartered Future Public School will open its doors to students in August of 2018.



The school will draw from an area with a large population of low-income, diverse students and families, which aligns with its mission and vision to provide more equitable educational opportunities for all students. During their summer pilot, 86% of their students qualified for free or reduced-price lunch. Future will offer meal and transportation service, since these two factors are economic barriers to school choice for families who have lower household incomes.

Woven within the strong, STEM-focused academic foundation are the human themes of identity, diversity, equity, and action. Brad and Amanda know that these values help the students feel heard, seen, and included, which in turn creates a learning environment that is respectful, curious, and joyful.



LESSONS LEARNED

Bluum engaged the independent education research group Education Northwest to generate an external evaluation of our work on the ‘20 in 10’ effort. Key takeaways from that report include:

SCHOOLS USE ‘20 IN 10’ FUNDS FOR MANY DIFFERENT PURPOSES, AND RELY ON BLUUM TO VARYING DEGREES

- ‘20 in 10’ funding allows schools to meet a range of physical and human resource needs, including building or moving into new campuses, acquiring equipment and curricular materials, and training staff.
- Schools vary widely in how much they draw upon Bluum’s support.



GROWTH IN STUDENT ENROLLMENT IS CONCENTRATED AT THE ELEMENTARY LEVEL

- The largest gains have been in seats at the elementary level, with middle and high school enrollments increasing at slower rates.
- Grantees will likely struggle to accommodate these increasing enrollments at the elementary level as they move up through the grades.
- On average, ‘20 in 10’ schools are achieving about 90% of their projected growth.

‘20 IN 10’ SCHOOLS FACE ONGOING CHALLENGES WITH SCHOOL STAFF RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- Both qualitative and quantitative data show that ‘20 in 10’ schools are increasing the size of their teaching staffs, but many still struggle to meet their staffing needs.
- Barriers to staff recruitment include credentialing requirements, limited pools of qualified applicants, and an increasingly high need for staff trained in special education.
- Teaching in a ‘20 in 10’ school is different from teaching in a district public school, and it’s simply not a fit for everyone, leading to teacher attrition.

TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS APPRECIATE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, AND WANT MORE

- Schools strive to pursue balanced growth and provide professional development to their teachers, but further supports are needed to recruit, train, and retain staff in ‘20 in 10’ schools.
- There are specific needs for professional development involving teacher collaboration, adapting to shifting responsibilities, and promoting positive school culture and climate in the face of change.



SCHOOLS STRIVE TO MAINTAIN COHESIVE SCHOOL CULTURE AND POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE AS THEY WELCOME A MORE DIVERSE STUDENT BODY

- An influx of new students and families means that schools must not only take steps to expand their staffing and services to meet students’ changing needs, they also must spend time establishing norms and expectations with new students and their families.
- Many grantees are taking steps to maintain a cohesive school culture through communication with students and families and adopting new social and emotional learning (SEL) curricula.

‘20 IN 10’ SCHOOLS ARE CONTINUALLY ADAPTING THEIR FACILITIES AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTS

- Grantees described working to solve the constant environmental challenges they faced, including taking time to practice new procedures. They stressed that students, staff and families all need to practice patience while adjusting to new building designs, traffic patterns, and locations of campuses.
- Some schools have been able to address their physical or environmental challenges by directing ‘20 in 10’ funding towards new or improved facilities.

FAMILIES CHOOSE SCHOOLS FOR DIFFERENT REASONS AND WITH VARYING LEVELS OF INFORMATION

- Schools continue to report there is a gap in understanding between the services a school can provide and services that students and families need.
- Schools are struggling to navigate the tension between welcoming new students and expecting the students to know or quickly assimilate to the school's culture.
- Family engagement is critical for ensuring that schools are equitably meeting students' needs.

NEW SCHOOLS FACE UNIQUE CHALLENGES IN STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND DISTRICT RELATIONS

- New schools face many challenges, and have unique needs related to building a student body and building bridges between school, district, and community.

THE FIRST TWO IDAHO NEW SCHOOL FELLOWS EXPERIENCED A RICH AND DEMANDING FIRST YEAR

- Fellows learned important lessons about negotiating complicated bureaucratic and legislative terrain, while adapting to changing circumstances.
- Fellows felt well supported by Bluum, and would benefit from even more guidance and opportunities to build relationships in the community.

'20 IN 10' SCHOOLS APPRECIATE BLUUM, AND EXPRESS ADDITIONAL NEEDS RELATED TO NETWORKING AND DATA USE

- Grantees reported many examples of reliable, flexible, and personalized attention and support from Bluum, which has been critical for ensuring their schools' basic viability.
- The most common requests for support involved having even more opportunities to share knowledge among schools, and learning how to better use data as a roadmap for change.



LOOKING AHEAD

Education Northwest’s evaluation of Bluum’s work with schools provides key insight into larger trends running through the ‘20 in 10’ effort. So does the student achievement data, which provides some insights but leaves questions unanswered. In fact, it actually generates more questions like:

- How can we best use student achievement data to track the impact of ‘20 in 10’ schools on their students over time?
- Along with test scores, what other indicators of success and achievement should we measure?
- How do we do this in ways that don’t take valuable time from educators and students, but actually add value to their work?

Our work is generative, and we are still very much at the beginning of the ‘20 in 10’ strategy. This report is a way to provide public accountability for what we are doing, to document the lessons learned, and to highlight and share some of the issues and concerns that we, in partnership with the schools, seek to address in coming months and years.

We share this report humbly and always appreciate feedback from you, the reader. How can we do this work smarter? Are there questions we should be asking but aren’t? We look forward to finding more leaders, models, and innovations that further our effort to create schools that are **quality by design**.



Endnotes

1. The Idaho State Report Card was redacted based on those SBOE or DMC rules, policies and procedures: <http://apps.sde.idaho.gov/ReportCard/Content/Redaction-Rules.pdf>
2. Based on publicly available State Department of Education data: <https://www.sde.idaho.gov/communications/frequently-requested-data.html>
3. NWEA MAP Assessment Norms (2015): <https://www.nwea.org/content/uploads/2015/11/Normative-Data-2015.pdf>
4. SAT State Benchmarks: <https://public.tableau.com/profile/idaho.assessment#!/vizhome/2017SATSchoolDayTableauFile-PackagedWorkbookforPosting/IdahoDashboard>
5. Private schools are not required by Idaho state law to administer the ISAT; academic achievement is therefore measured with other assessments, in this case the NWEA MAP.

OUR TEAM

Staff



Terry Ryan
Chief Executive Officer



Kristen McCarver
Communications Manager



Marc Carignan
Chief Financial Officer



Amy Felton-Toth
Learning & Grants Specialist



Suzanne Metzgar
Director of Partner Services

Board

Joe Bruno | Building Hope

Marybeth Flachbart | Education Northwest

Will Hughes | Boise State University

Toby Prehn | Cold Chain, LLC

Marta Reyes-Newberry | Reyes-Newberry & Associates

Bill Russell | Transacction Partners

Renita Thukral | National Alliance for Public Charter Schools

1010 W. Jefferson St., Suite 201, Boise, ID 83702 | 208.336.8400





LET LEARNING GROW

