



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 21<sup>st</sup>, and families can apply at [strongfamilies.idaho.gov](https://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 21<sup>st</sup> and December 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Tracie.Bent@osbe.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-1567.

Sincerely,

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho

Debbie Critchfield  
Board President



## There is funding available to support your child's learning needs

Idaho families are facing many challenges as they are forced to rapidly adapt to changing circumstances in their children's education because of COVID-19. Funding is now available to help Idaho children whose education has been impacted by COVID-19. Through the *Strong Families, Strong Students* program Idaho families are provided access to grant funds to help with their students learning.

### **Strong Families, Strong Students**

Is a program funded by Idaho's Coronavirus Relief Funds, which provides Idaho students access to grant dollars that can be used to purchase educational goods and services that their families decide their students need.

### **Who can apply?**

**If you are a parent or guardian of an Idaho public, private, parochial, student(s) in grades K-12— impacted by a COVID-19-related full or partial Idaho school closure or the parent or guardian of a home schooled student who experienced a COVID-19-related employment disruption— you can apply for these funds.**

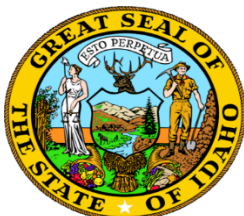
### **Eligible Families can:**

- Receive a credit for \$1,500 per child or up to \$3,500 per family.
- Purchase computers and technology, pay for internet access, instructional materials, fees for courses, tutoring services and educational services and therapies through approved vendors available through the on-line marketplace.
- Seek reimbursement for eligible education expenses paid for between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.
- Once the account is created, monies are deposited into a digital wallet and available to be spent through the current school year.
- When you apply please have evidence of your child's, or children's, public or private school enrollment and a copy of your 2019 tax return.
- If you home school, please have a proof of residence available when you apply.

### **ACT FAST!**

**Enrollment will be open from October 21, 2020 to December 15, 2020.** Awards will be issued first on economic need and then on a first come first serve basis. All dollars must be allocated to families no later than December 31, 2020. However, families have until June 30 to spend their money once it is in their digital wallet.

**Learn More and Apply at**  
[strongfamilies.idaho.gov](http://strongfamilies.idaho.gov)





## Hay fondos disponibles para soportar las necesidades de aprendizaje de tu niño/a

Las familias de Idaho están encontrando muchos retos como son forzados a adaptarse rápidamente a las circunstancias cambiantes en la educación de sus niños a causa de COVID-19. Fondos ahora son disponible para ayudar a los niños de Idaho cuya educación ha sido impactado por COVID-19. A través del programa *Strong Families, Strong Students* las familias de Idaho están provistos acceso a fondos de subvención para ayudar con la educación de sus estudiantes.

### **Strong Families, Strong Students (Fuerte familias, fuerte estudiantes)**

Es un programa financiado por fondos de ayuda para el coronavirus de Idaho que proporciona a los estudiantes de Idaho acceso a dinero de subvención que se pueden usar para bienes y servicios que sus familias deciden que sus estudiantes necesitan.

### **¿Quién puede aplicar?**

Si usted es un padre o guardián de un estudiante (o estudiantes) en grados K-12 enrolado en una escuela pública, privada, parroquial en Idaho - que fue impactado por una cerrada completamente o parcial de la escuela relacionado a COVID-19 o si el padre o guardián de un estudiante de educación en casa que ha experimentado una disrupción de empleo relacionado a COVID-19 – usted puede aplicar para estos fondos.

### **Familias elegibles pueden:**

- Recibir un crédito por \$1,500 por niño/a hasta \$3,500 por familia.
- Comprar computadoras o tecnología, pagar por acceso al internet, materiales instructiva, matriculas para cursos, servicios de tutoría y servicios educativos y terapias a través de vendedores aprobados en el mercado en línea.
- Buscar reembolso para gastos educativos elegibles pagados entre el 1 de marzo 2020 y 30 de diciembre 2020.
- Una vez que la cuenta se ha creado, el dinero será depositado en una billetera digital y será disponible ser gastado entre el año escolar corriente.
- Cuando aplicas, por favor tenga evidencia de inscripción de su niño/a o niños en la escuela pública o privada y una copia de tu declaración de impuestos del año 2019.
- Si educas en casa, por favor tenga prueba de residencia disponible cuando aplicas.

### **¡Actúa rápidamente!**

**La inscripción estará abierta desde el 21 de octubre 2020 hasta el 15 de diciembre 2020.**

Premios serán emitidos primero por necesidad económica y luego por orden de llegada de su aplicación. Todos los fondos necesitan ser asignados a las familias no más tarde que el 31 de diciembre 2020. Sin embargo, familias tienen hasta el 30 de junio 2021 para gastar su dinero una vez que sea depositado en su billetera digital.

**Aprende más y aplica en:** [strongfamilies.idaho.gov](http://strongfamilies.idaho.gov)

