



**CONTACT:**

Terry Ryan  
Tel: 208-336-8400  
Email: [tryan@bluum.org](mailto:tryan@bluum.org)

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**IDAHO'S STUDENTS HAVE MORE OPTIONS FOR LEARNING**

*First Bilingual Parent Resource Guide Delves Into School and Learning Options Available to All Students*

We are pleased to be able to make our "[Parents' Guide to Idaho's School and Learning Choices](#)" available to parents in the Gem State in Spanish or English. Moms, dads and other significant caregivers are a child's first teacher, and their influence on educational achievement is critical. All Idaho parents, regardless of their native language, should have access to information about the growing choices available to their children so they can make the best decisions possible about what learning opportunities are best for their sons and daughters.

"The fact is, more parents in Idaho and across the country are availing themselves of specific school choice options because they want the learning opportunities that they think best fit the needs of their son or daughter," according to Terry Ryan, CEO of Bluum.

More than 20 percent of Idaho's K-12 students now attend a school of choice instead of their traditional neighborhood school. Of the 319,000 or so Gem State K-12 age students, the Idaho Department of Education reports:

- more than 19,600 students attend one of the state's 48 public charter schools
- more than 10,700 students attend a district magnet program
- more than 5,400 students attend an alternative school
- more than 28,000 students attend a private school or are home schooled and
- more than 11,000 students are on waiting lists for charters

Added to the expanding list of school options available to parents and children are a growing number of course choices, dual-credit opportunities and other alternative learning options that go well beyond the traditional offerings of brick-and-mortar classrooms. Students across the state are taking a variety of courses through Khan Academy and even gaining credits through online programs like the Idaho Digital Learning Academy.

"Education is too important to be left just to the schools to do alone. Parents are busy and have a lot going on in their lives and the lives of their families," says Ryan. "The aim of this report is to help busy parents make informed decisions about their children's school."

This resource is an invaluable guide to parents as they navigate Idaho's expanding school and education choices. The *Parent's Guide* can be downloaded for free at [bluum.org/parents-guide](http://bluum.org/parents-guide) in English and Espanol.

**About Bluum**

Bluum is a nonprofit organization committed to ensuring Idaho's children reach their fullest potential by cultivating great leaders and innovative schools. For more information visit [Bluum.org](http://Bluum.org).

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