

**VI. GENERAL FUND AND MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE FUND**

**A.2. Finances - FY2014 Budget Submission**

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Our budget request is due to the Division of Financial Management by September 1, and adjustments can be made up until that time.

After discussions with staff, I recommend the Commissioners consider one line item (enhancement, or above maintenance level) for the FY2014 state budget request:

STATE GENERAL FUND	Amount	Item
Operating	\$ 295,000	Community anchor resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$120,000 LearningExpress Library</li> <li>• \$ 50,000 K-12 STEM support</li> <li>• \$ 25,000 public information</li> </ul>
Trustee & Benefit	\$250,000	Reimbursements for ISP charges after e-rate
Line Item Total	<b>\$ 545,000</b>	

**Libraries as Community Anchors.** The demand for access to digital resources in public libraries continues to grow, and it is clear that statewide licenses that cover all publicly funded libraries are by far the most cost-effective way to provide those resources to Idaho citizens. The demand for broadband in public libraries also continues to grow, and even with e-rate discounts libraries are increasingly challenged to cover connectivity and Internet service provider (ISP) charges solely with their property tax revenues.

70% of Idaho public libraries report that they are the only source of free Internet access in their communities. Libraries need broadband not only as infrastructure but as a service for their communities. Without adequate broadband, access to digital resources is limited.

We propose a package to support public libraries in their role as community anchor institutions that includes ongoing funding for the non-discounted portion of their ISP charges, statewide licenses for online resources for workforce development and education (K-12 science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and higher education), and public information.

**Suggested motion:** I move that a line item of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for Community Anchor support be approved for the Commission’s FY2014 budget request.

MSC \_\_\_\_\_