

VI. General, Misc. Revenue, and Library Services and Improvement Funds

A.3. FY2022 Budget Submission – Action Item

The last budget memo from the Division of Financial Management (DFM) said it is unlikely the state will be able to consider new General Fund items or supplemental requests. However, with the possibility of libraries and schools needing to close due to community spread of COVID-19, there are too few e-books available for Idaho students and adults. If DFM allows enhancements, we would pursue including one or more of these in our budget submission if there is support from the Board. We will also be actively looking for additional funding sources.

Statewide support for e-books has been identified by staff as the highest priority for additional funding. Other requests that may have been considered in better economic times include:

- \$150,000 for statewide managed content filter system for library wi-fi
- \$57,400 for EOR (Educational Opportunities Resource) broadband support
- \$140,000 to expand the Kindergarten-ready grant program

The FY2022 budget request will be prepared according to the Division of Financial Management's (DFM) forthcoming budget development manual and will be submitted by August 30, 2020. The following enhancement request is recommended:

STATEWIDE SUPPORT FOR E-BOOKS AND E-AUDIO - \$450,000

Currently no state funds are utilized to support statewide access to e-books. While several Idaho public libraries offer some type of e-book/e-audio collections now, 24 of the 104 Idaho public library jurisdictions, or 23 percent, of our smaller, most rural public libraries in high-need communities offer no access to e-books or e-audio titles. (Source: 2019 Idaho Public Library Statistics) Of the estimated population of 1,787,965 in Idaho, 15 percent, or 280,435 people, live outside of a library service area, creating another barrier to access. (Source: 2019 Idaho Public Library Statistics) A statewide solution would provide an avenue for these unserved populations to access materials. According to 2020 vendor statistics, approximately 20 percent of Idaho schools offer access to e-books, leaving many Idaho students without access to reading materials when schools are closed. The arrival of COVID-19 has highlighted the inequity in library services for the people of Idaho. These funds would allow all who live in the state to have equal access to reading materials, as they do with databases and other online learning resources.

Suggested motion: I move that the FY2022 agency budget request be approved as described in Board Document 21-05, including a \$450,000 enhancement for statewide access to e-books and e-audio titles and that the State Librarian be authorized to make adjustments in the

request as may be required by the Division of Financial Management
or the Legislative Services Office.

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