

VI. General, Misc. Revenue, and Library Services and Improvement Funds
A.3. Finances - FY2024 Budget Submission – action Item

The FY2024 budget request will be prepared according to the Division of Financial Management's (DFM) budget development manual and will be submitted by August 31, 2022. The following enhancement request is recommended by staff and a final decision by the Board will be made at its August meeting. The following enhancement request is recommended:

KINDERGARTEN READINESS GRANTS - \$40,000

This enhancement would increase ICfL's appropriation for Kindergarten Readiness grants. Children who are better prepared for kindergarten are more likely to become proficient readers by the third grade. Grade level reading proficiency is one of Governor Little's priorities. The ICfL currently receives \$60,000 in state funds to support a Kindergarten Readiness Grant for Idaho public libraries. Prior to the pandemic, we received far more requests for funding than \$60,000. We have increased our early learning professional development for public library staff, established a statewide Early Learning Library Group, and have been more widely sharing best practices in library service to young children and their parents/caregivers. These increased efforts have resulted in more interest to establish and sustain library programs that support kindergarten readiness. An increase of \$40,000 would allow ICfL to award more funding that supports the development of early literacy skills and better prepares parents and caregivers to transition their children to kindergarten.

Suggested motion: I move that the FY2024 agency budget request be approved as described in Board Document 23-08, including an ongoing increase of \$40,000 in ICfL's appropriation for Kindergarten Readiness Grants 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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