

## **Cheers and Jeers**

JEERS: To Gov. C.L. “Butch” Otter for seeking to eliminate state funding for the Idaho Digital Learning Academy.

The state-sanctioned online school is one of the seven agencies facing a funding phase-out under the governor’s balanced budget proposal.

IDLA is a statewide virtual high school set up to provide Idaho students with greater access to a diverse assortment of courses. Any student who pays the \$50-per-class fee gets instruction from teachers all over the state.

Traditional, home-schooled, at-risk, gifted and adult learners all have access to the seven-year-old program. It’s ideal for high school students who only need one or two classes to graduate, and for students in small high school schools where subjects such as physics, foreign languages and advanced math aren’t offered.

We like Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna’s alternative better: He’d cut IDLA’s \$5 million budget by 3.74 percent, along with other state-funded education programs.

In combination with the new Idaho Education Network, the IDLA provides students statewide with opportunities they’d never otherwise have. It should remain an integral part of Idaho education.