



Furloughs ahead for Idaho Digital Learning staff

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BOISE — The Idaho Digital Learning Academy Board of Directors set the 2010-2011 budget on last week, making difficult decisions in order to meet the 22% funding reduction from the Idaho Legislature.

In addition to freezing salary increases for the second year in a row, full-time IDLA staff will take mandatory furloughs. The full-time executive team will take four unpaid days off during the 2010-2011 school year, while other full-time staff will take two furlough days. Other cuts include: online course development, admin/regional support, professional development, and an overall 8% cut in teacher compensation.

Additionally, for the first time IDLA's history, enrollment caps will be implemented, creating waiting lists for students in an undetermined number of courses. After seeing 50% growth each year since its inception in 2002, budget restrictions have forced the state's online school to limit enrollments to 15,000 for next school year.

"In order to meet last year's demand, IDLA will be forced into 'deficit spending'. This is not sustainable in the long term but we will do our best to serve Idaho students and schools" said George Boland, IDLA Board Chairman.

IDLA supplements existing school districts statewide with 165 rigorous online courses. It served 14,300 student enrollments this past school year. Idaho lawmakers held IDLA's budget at \$5-million for next school year.