



BRAD LITTLE  
GOVERNOR

April 10, 2026

The Honorable Phil McGrane  
Secretary of State  
Idaho Statehouse  
Hand Delivery

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I hereby advise you that I have signed on April 10, 2026, and transmitted to the Office of the Secretary of State, with my approval, the following Senate bill, to wit:

SENATE BILL 1444

within the time prescribed by law, the same having arrived in the Office of the Governor at the hour of 5:00 p.m. on April 2, 2026.

The legislative branch's Office of Performance Evaluations issued a detailed report last year on the Idaho Home Learning Academy (IHLA), identifying troubling findings related to supplemental learning funds. In light of the report, my budget recommendation included a targeted \$20 million cut to specifically address the issues outlined in the report.

The Legislature responded to the report's findings this session with a mere \$3 million cut to all virtual programs. The Legislature did not meaningfully address such disturbing findings about taxpayer funds for public education being routinely spent on paddleboards, streaming services, water park passes, and other inappropriate items and services.

That said, I am pleased with the passage of House Bill 624, which establishes guardrails around how funds of this nature may be spent while preserving IHLA's learning model.

Virtual schools are among the many school choice options Idaho is proud to offer, and they serve thousands of families across the state. I will continue to support our virtual schools and the work they do. However, we must acknowledge there is a need to examine the way our state funds these programs. I stand ready to work with legislators, the State Department of Education, the State Board of Education, and other stakeholders to identify a solution moving forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Little".

Brad Little  
Governor of Idaho