
FISCAL UPDATE Article

Fiscal Services Division

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IOWA LEARNING ONLINE TO BE DISCONTINUED

Iowa Learning Online (ILO). At the May 2019 State Board of Education meeting, Director Ryan Wise announced the end of the Iowa Learning Online (ILO) program. ILO will operate for one more year with the support of area education agencies. In addition, the enrollment fee per student will be \$280 which is a \$20 increase per semester course.

History. ILO was established in 2004 as an initiative of the Department of Education. In FY 2014, FY 2015, and FY 2016, ILO received General Fund appropriations of \$1.5 million annually to expand the offerings of ILO to a full curriculum except for career and technical education courses. After ILO converted to fee-based funding beginning in FY 2017, ILO lost enrollment and the enrollment focus shifted to world language courses. World language courses were the most expensive for ILO to offer due to licensing costs. The Department determined that ILO was not sustainable on the current fee-based system.

Budget Request. In October 2018, the Department submitted a budget request to the Governor and General Assembly requesting a \$500,000 appropriation to sustain ILO, but the request was not approved. Director Wise said the program cannot be sustained on its current funding.

School District Support. Students from 97 school districts were enrolled in ILO for the current school year. The Department will be giving notice to school districts regarding the ending of ILO programming, and will be supporting districts with the transition to other online opportunities.

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