



IDAHO
VIRTUAL ACADEMY
POWERED BY K12

Statement from Idaho Virtual Academy Board of Directors

March 4, 2023

As the independent, nonprofit governing board for IDVA, we take our roles and fiduciary responsibilities seriously. We have autonomy over the school. We work very closely with our administrative team and continuously exercise oversight of school policies, finances, and operations.

IDVA has served thousands of students across Idaho for 20 years. Our school has graduated more students than any other charter school in the state. We have an incredibly dedicated team of teachers and staff. IDVA is an important education option, and, for many families, the *only* charter school option they have for their children.

IDVA is a success story. We are proud of our accomplishments and excited to continue serving students as one of the longest running public charter schools in Idaho.

We are pleased the Idaho Charter School Commission voted to renew Idaho Virtual Academy's (IDVA) charter without conditions on Friday, February 24, 2023.

Idaho statute states that an "authorized chartering entity *shall* renew any charter in which the public charter school met all of the terms of its performance certificate at the time of renewal." IDVA met all its performance terms at the time of renewal. Despite this, the Commission director proposed new conditions that our school would be required to accept by June 30, 2023, for our school to be renewed. Our Board objected and requested a public hearing before the Commission.

The facts and testimony in the hearing revealed that the proposed conditions were based on erroneous data, factual errors, and other mistakes. The assertion that IDVA "owes debt" to its Education Services Provider (ESP) was false and was based on either a misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the deficit protection agreement IDVA's nonprofit governing board negotiated with our ESP. Our school has no debt.

The deficit protection agreement IDVA's governing board has with our services provider, Stride/K12, acts as security for our school. It ensures our school can meet all its financial obligations. It places any financial risk on the ESP – not on our school or the taxpayers of Idaho – which protects our students and teachers from any funding shortfalls that may occur and ensures the school never incurs debt. The terms in the contract make it clear, and IDVA's 20

year track record of debt-free and clean audits proves it. IDVA has no past debt or risk of future debt. While many charter schools constantly struggle or ultimately close due to financial problems, IDVA has been, and continues to be, financially healthy and secure.

IDVA is also fully transparent. As was documented during the hearing, IDVA meets all the financial reporting and disclosure requirements under Idaho statute for public schools. Our school regularly posts updated financial statements and other financial information on our website. Commission staff can develop its own set of performance metrics, however, IDVA sought and was granted an exemption from the financial portion of that framework because, as was meticulously explained during the hearing, it inaccurately measures IDVA's financial performance by, among other things, not accounting for the deficit protection.

Jeffrey Thompson, IDVA Board Chair

Melissa Krein, IDVA Board Vice Chair

Irene Shaver, IDVA Board Treasurer

Bjorn Handeen, IDVA Board Director

Heather McPherson, IDVA Board Director