

2009 Library Legislative Platform

January 25, 2009

Public Library MOE Reform

- MLA/MEMO supports the recommendations of the MN Library Funding Committee on reforming Library Maintenance of Effort for cities and counties.

State Telecommunications Funding for Schools and Libraries

- MLA/MEMO supports continued funding for K-12 school telecommunications and Internet connectivity at \$8.743M each year of the biennium to equalize costs to districts across the state for a basic level of service.
- MLA/MEMO supports continued funding to public libraries at \$2.3M each year through the Regional Library Telecommunications Aid (RLTA) program.

Regional Library Basic System Support

- MLA/MEMO supports maintaining the current RLBSS grant to sustain the essential programs and services delivered by local public libraries.

Multitype Library System Support

- MLA/MEMO supports the current Multitype Library System grant to support the increased communication and resource sharing, staff development, and collaborative programming that connects all types of Minnesota libraries.

MINITEX / MnLINK

- MLA/MEMO supports maintaining the current base budget of MINITEX funding at \$5.6M for each year of the biennium.
- MLA/MEMO supports an allocation of \$67,500 over the biennium for the MnLINK Gateway required software upgrades in FY2011. This upgrade is necessary to ensure effective technology for resource sharing in Minnesota.

The following platform positions are supported by MLA/MEMO in principle. While not the lead organizations for developing or shepherding bills on these issues through the legislature, MLA/MEMO recognize the importance of the following issues as they have a key role promoting excellent library service and positive outcomes for Minnesotans.

Braille and Talking Book Library

- MLA/MEMO supports funding levels for the Braille and Talking Book Library that ensure vital services and programs are readily available to the vision impaired

State Technology Standards

- MEMO/MLA supports the finalization and adoption of the state technology standards to ensure student success.

Early Learning and Literacy

- MLA/MEMO supports funding for programs in early learning and literacy, including those which use the resources and expertise of libraries across the state.

Increase in general education funding formula (New Minnesota Miracle)

- MEMO/MLA supports a significant general education formula increase.

Local Government Aid / County Program Aid and levy limits

- MLA/MEMO supports an increase for LGA/CPA as these programs provide significant financial support for local library services.
- MLA supports the removal of all levy limits on local governments.