

MINNESOTA LIBRARIES TRANSFORM™

2018 MLA/ITEM LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and the Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) support state funding for the following programs that sustain and expand library services in Minnesota.

INCREASE BASIC FUNDING FOR LIBRARY SYSTEMS

(HF 1382 /SF 1033)

Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS)

Increased funding from \$13.57 million to \$16.57 million annually with a corresponding formula change to provide stable funding for all regional public library systems across the state.

Multicounty Multitype Library System Support

Increased funding from \$1.3 million to \$2 million annually to support communication, resource sharing, staff development, and collaborative programming connecting all types of Minnesota libraries.

BONDING FOR PUBLIC LIBRARY BUILDINGS

(HF 1484/SF 2218)

MLA and ITEM support the appropriation of \$10 million for construction and remodeling of public library buildings through the State's currently authorized matching program.

CREATE GRANT POOL FOR LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS

(HF 2698)

MLA and ITEM support funding a grant pool to enable school districts to increase access to licensed library media specialists in districts that face a shortage of licensed media staff.

Minnesota's library systems work together as the infrastructure that supports public, school, academic, & special libraries as these libraries serve the information needs of their users.

Regional Public Library Systems

Regional Public Library Systems coordinate public library services to serve residents within their regions and across the state.

Multicounty Multitype Library Systems

Multitype systems partner with member libraries to educate staff for traditional & emerging roles, cultivate collaboration, & encourage technological innovation. They leverage existing library strengths to build capacity to achieve more collectively than could be attained independently.

School Librarians

School librarians teach critical media information literacy skills & the ability to read critically to help students to become responsible digital citizens. School librarians are fundamental in helping students develop the skills they need to be successful in the 21st century.

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

Net Neutrality

MLA & ITEM support state led efforts to maintain net neutrality for Minnesotans. Preserving net neutrality is essential for equitable access to online information and services. The internet is the primary mechanism for delivering information, services and applications to the public, therefore, it's especially important that commercial Internet Service Providers are not able to control or manipulate the content of these communications. Libraries, our patrons and America's communities will be at risk if the FCC's repeal of protections contained in its 2015 Open Internet Order aren't replaced with any enforceable rules.



The following efforts enhance library service to all Minnesota students and residents. As representatives of libraries of all types, MLA/ITEM support funding in the following areas:

- Continued funding for Minitex, the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM), the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL) and MNLINK, the statewide interlibrary loan and delivery system.
- Funding for EBooks MN to provide increased content and access to ebooks for libraries and school media centers.
- Funding after school and community programs that recognize the essential role libraries play to foster early literacy, provide out-of-school learning opportunities, and contribute to workforce development and college and career readiness.
- Annual funding for broadband for public libraries (RLTA) at \$2.3 million per year.
- Increased annual funding for K-12 Broadband Equity Aid from \$3.75 million per year to \$9.75 million per year.
- Requests for increases in Local Government Aid and County Program Aid because these funding sources support government operations at the city and county level. An increase in the revenue base for cities and counties may result in additional funding support for library services at the local level.



The members of the Minnesota Library Association and Information Technology Educators of Minnesota have endorsed this platform and encourage you to support it in 2018.

