

2023 Minnesota Library Association (MLA)
Legislative Priorities – Approved by MLA Board on 11/21/22

- **Support Lifelong Learners by Improving Minnesota’s Library and School Services**
 - By securing increased funding and a corresponding formula change for Minnesota’s 12 regional public library systems to provide the essential and stable support needed by citizens, students, and lifelong learners to reach their educational, personal, and professional goals.
 - By defining a school library media center to increase student and classroom teacher access to licensed library media specialists and to improve student academic achievement.
 - By securing increased funding for Minnesota’s seven multicounty multitype library systems to provide continuous support for school, academic and special library staff.
 - By supporting Minnesota Department of Education/State Library Services policy language recommendations contained in the 2022 MDE policy bill.
- **Assist Library Communities in Securing Arts & Cultural Programming and Safe & Accessible Facilities**
 - By supporting Arts & Cultural Heritage funding for regional public library systems to ensure arts, arts education, and Minnesota history and cultural heritage access.
 - By partnering with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to secure grant funding for libraries to support local telehealth needs.
 - By maintaining Local Government Aid (LGA) and County Program Aid to help local governments sustain quality library services.
 - By advocating for investment in infrastructure to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities to ensure safe, accessible, and welcoming library spaces.
 - By continuing to have open conversations regarding library Maintenance of Effort (MOE) with the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) and Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC).
- **Expand Broadband and Digital Equity for All Minnesotans**
 - By expanding resources for the Electronic Library of Minnesota and other Open Educational Resource platforms that enable every resident of the state of Minnesota to have access to the highest quality online resources, including research databases, career prep tools, and more.
 - By maintaining Regional Library Telecommunication Aid (RLTA) funding and exploring new spending guidelines to secure equitable high speed connections for K-12 school and public libraries.
 - By supporting initiatives and investment in broadband to ensure affordable, high-capacity internet access is available to all Minnesotans.
- **Protect Intellectual Freedom and Equitable Access to Resources**
 - By monitoring and addressing legislation impacting public and school libraries and by protecting intellectual freedom by opposing library censorship.