



Illinois Library Association

LIBRARY LEGISLATIVE

MEETUPS

104th Illinois General Assembly

| 2025 Spring Session |

Fund Libraries

Fully fund Fiscal Year 2026 state appropriations for the Illinois Secretary of State's grant programs, equalization grants, and per capita grants for public libraries, school libraries, and library systems. Approve appropriations for the Illinois State Library and higher education institutions including state university and community college academic libraries for the benefit of students, their families, and our communities. Increase the per capita and per student grant rates for public libraries and school libraries, respectively, to keep pace with increased expenses libraries will incur throughout the year.

Compensation Reporting Requirements

Since 2012, the Illinois General Assembly has required Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) participating employers to post within six business days of approving its budget employee information for those who earn a total compensation package of at least \$75,000. IMRF employers are also required to publicly post proposed compensation packages for any person who will earn at least \$150,000 for at least six days prior to an employer approving an employee compensation package. This proposal seeks to amend the Open Meetings Act to adjust current statutory dollar amounts for posting purposes to \$125,000 and \$200,000, respectively, to account for inflation and reduce small public employer administrative burdens.

Libraries Connected Broadband

The Illinois Century Network provides a geographically diverse and redundant connection ensuring high availability of internet access to the public. This proposal, in part, amends the Illinois Century Network Act to establish schools and libraries as primary anchor institutions for purposes of connection to this high-speed internet network.

Licensed School Librarians Task Force

The Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE) and its partners will propose the creation of the "Licensed School Librarian Task Force" to make legislative recommendations on how to ensure Illinois public elementary and high schools consider, budget appropriate resources for, and employ Licensed School Librarians in future academic years from state and local resources available to them.



Illinois Library Association
560 W. Washington Blvd, Suite 330
Chicago, IL 60661
e: ila@ila.org w: ila.org



@ILibraryAssoc



@IllLibraryAssoc



illibraryassociation



Illinois Library Association

The State of Illinois School Libraries

*Every student succeeds with
licensed librarians*



AISLE

Association of Illinois School
Library Educators

 www.aisled.org

 advocacy@aisled.org

RECENT LEGISLATION

- **License to Read Act** provides that the State Librarian may negotiate with publishers of eBooks and audiobooks on behalf of libraries.
- **Banning Book Bans** requires libraries to adhere to the ALA's Library Bill of Rights and to create written policies against the practice of banning books in order to qualify for state grants.
- **Media Literacy** requires every public high school to include in its curriculum a unit of instruction on media literacy; sets forth what topics the unit of instruction shall include.

STUDENTS SUCCEED WITH LICENSED LIBRARIANS

In Illinois and across the country, the majority of elementary and high schools that have a physical library are not staffed by those who have earned library certification from an accredited academic institution.

AISLE and its partners will propose the creation of the 'Licensed School Librarian Task Force' which will be filed for the Illinois General Assembly Spring 2025. The goal of this task force is to make legislative recommendations on how to ensure that Illinois K-12 schools consider, budget for, and employ licensed school librarians in future academic years using the state and local resources available to them.

THE SLATE PROJECT

In response to large gaps in the data representing Illinois school libraries discovered by the [SLIDE Project](#), RAILS launched the School Library Data Project in January 2022 and created the [SLATE database](#) ([School Library Advocacy Through Education](#)). This database allows users to look at individual schools or districts and find statistics about their library programs, including the collection size, dollars spent, and number of licensed librarians employed. Visit SLATE using the QR code.



In cooperation with our state partners



Illinois Library Association



REACHING ACROSS ILLINOIS LIBRARY SYSTEM



Illinois Heartland Library System



Federal Funding for Libraries in Illinois: IMLS/LSTA

Administered through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA), the only federal program that exclusively covers services and funding for libraries, provided \$5.8 million for Illinois Libraries in FY2023 under the Grants to States Program. **Please support LSTA funding in the FY2025 federal budget.**

In FY2023 this funding impacted Illinois libraries through:

Efficiently Sharing Resources: 10.7 million items were transferred among more than 1,700 public, school, academic, and special libraries in Illinois. LSTA-supported resource sharing allowed for an average of 3,809 delivery stops to be made during each week of the fiscal year through ground delivery services provided by the regional library systems. No one library can own everything; and sharing resources between libraries benefits library users across the entire state.

Additionally, through subscriptions for WorldCat Discovery/FirstSearch services Illinois libraries conducted 1,260,073 citation searches between July 1, 2022 and June 30, 2023 to serve their library patrons and support their library operations. Academic and college libraries constituted (17.99%) 226,765 of searches; public libraries (62.14%) 783,042; K-12 school libraries (18.08%) 227,865 and special libraries such as medical, law, corporate, and government (1.7%) 22,401. Use of these services allows libraries to identify and access the resources that are required to meet the expectations of their patrons.

Project Next Generation Grants: This initiative is designed to educate at-risk students and bridge the digital divide. Public libraries work closely with their school districts to identify needs; since its 2000 inception, thousands of teens have benefited. In FY2023, 30 libraries received more than \$500,000 in funding to enhance students' abilities to deal with life experiences, develop critical thinking skills, and prepare for the future. The program is designed to immerse students in learning while providing access to computers, software, and technologies. The Peoria Public Library received \$12,500 to implement a Project Next Generation program at its Lincoln Branch. Other communities benefitting from this program included Normal for a program entitled, "Code Club"; Highwood for "STEAM Powered Teens"; and Chicago Ridge for "You Can Be – Dream Big at Your Library."

Professional Development: The Illinois Library Association receives funding from the Illinois State Library and partners with the Reaching Across Illinois and the Illinois Heartland library systems to provide library leadership training for library directors, those who are brand new or those newer to the position, via "Directors' University." These programs enable library leaders to make the most out of local tax dollars which support the bulk of public library operations in this state.

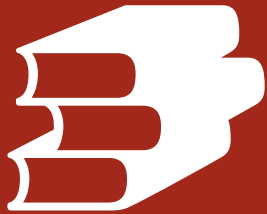
Questions? Contact Executive Director Cynthia Robinson, crobinson@ila.org, 312-644-1897

Illinois Public Libraries by the Numbers FY2022



Illinois has **640** Public libraries with a service area population of **11,795,276**.*

4,018,681 Illinois residents have library cards, about **33%**.



Illinoisans checked out **90,669,914** materials – that's **6** per resident.

E-books, e-audiobooks, and e-videos were downloaded **16,761,285** times.



Illinois residents visited libraries **36,250,320** times.

4,091,202 Illinoisans attended **217,940** library programs either in person or virtually.



Illinois residents connected to library Wi-Fi **23,701,627** times.

Illinois libraries do all this for only **\$70** per person!

