

Illinois Public Library Standards: Access

The physical library remains central to successful service and while no one model can meet every need, some common requirements will help to create a functional and enjoyable environment for both staff and patrons. These include adequate and accessible layouts to house and circulate the collections, comfortable and light filled areas for the public and staff, meeting and study rooms for both group and individual use, and youth spaces that inspire children and teens. Libraries should review the long-term spatial needs of the library in conjunction with their current strategic plan.

STANDARD	CORE	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED
1	The library follows all local, state and federal laws relating to access, including the Americans with Disabilities Act.		
2	The library is open a minimum of 15 hours per week [23 Ill. Adm. Code 3030.110].	The library is open to the public with daytime, evening and weekend hours.	The library is open 7 days a week, for most of the year.
3	The library regularly reviews long term space needs.	The library addresses long term space needs in its strategic plan.	The library conducts a community needs survey and includes library spaces in the questionnaire.
4	The library provides an exterior book return that is open 24/7.	The library provides alternate methods for picking up and returning materials (e.g., drive-up book drop, curbside pickup, drive-through window).	The library provides off-site pick up and return of materials (e.g. homebound delivery, book mobiles, kiosks, automated lockers).
5	The library provides adequate, safe, well-lit, and convenient parking during all hours of service.		

6	The library's entrance is clearly visible, easily identified, and well-illuminated for both vehicles and pedestrians.		
7	The library's interior spaces are adequately illuminated.	Natural light is utilized as much as possible.	The library has energy efficient lighting throughout its buildings.
8	The library provides signage to identify collections, services, and amenities.	In multilingual communities, signage is provided in relevant languages throughout the building.	
9	The library provides designated spaces for youth and adults.	The library provides dedicated space for teens.	The library provides dedicated spaces for other specific populations (e.g., sensory space, comfort room, mother's room).
10	The library has adequate and appropriately sized shelving to provide easy access to patrons of all ages.		
11	The library has sturdy and comfortable furnishings in sufficient quantities and sizes to meet the needs of patrons of all ages.		
12	The library provides accessible spaces for library programs, meetings, and individual and group study.	The library has rooms designated for programs, meetings, and individual and group study.	