

Libraries Work for Colorado The Core Library Message – 2018 Legislative Session

Colorado libraries support the success of all Coloradans – from young children learning to read to entrepreneurs looking for ways to build their businesses.

To provide this support, all Colorado’s libraries use an exemplary network of services and programs that supports a growing knowledge-based economy.

To accomplish this, the state libraries maintain:

- › A 21st century infrastructure that permits efficient sharing of resources.
- › Sustainable funding to bring information to children, adults and students of all ages.
- › Principles that protect the rights for individuals to pursue their informational interests.

The general assembly has declared¹ that it is the policy of this state to promote the development of all types of publicly-supported free library service to ensure equal access to information.

To fulfill that declaration, the entire library community calls on the general assembly to support:

- › **Maintain** current funding for the State Grants to Libraries to provide access to materials through libraries that help fulfill the Colorado Blueprint goal to “educate and train the workforce of the future”.²
- › **Continue** protecting the rights of individuals to conduct research and explore new ideas.

All residents of the state will benefit by having libraries that:

- › Promote a better educated workforce; and
- › Provide materials and technology to encourage reading, literacy, learning, and enjoyment; and
- › Support self-sufficiency, job skills, and economic development.

This will allow libraries to:

- › Provide students in all grades with essential resources for learning.
- › Bring information to businesses and job seekers for a better economy.
- › Support early childhood learning.
- › Meet the reading and learning needs of children, adults, and students of all ages.

¹ CRS 24-90-102

²http://www.advancecolorado.com/sites/default/files/908_424_Colorado%20Blueprint_11_7_no_jump_8.5_0.pdf