

Indiana Library Federation

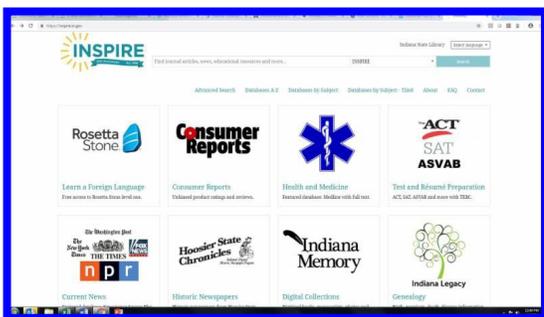
2019 Legislative and Policy Priorities

The Indiana Library Federation actively advocates for...

Internet connectivity for libraries and schools

The State budget includes a line item to reimburse libraries for partial costs of internet connectivity. Indiana's public libraries and schools provide access for students and residents who live in areas of the state without access to high-speed broadband and to those who cannot afford it.

An increase to \$5.5 million for internet connectivity in the State's biennial budget for libraries would benefit Hoosiers in library internet connectivity to best practice standards based on the population, bandwidth and usage. *Recognizing the limitations of the State budget, Indiana Library Federation (ILF) advocates a phased approach to \$5.5 million to achieve needed internet connectivity for libraries.*



Stable funding for INSPIRE

INSPIRE is a cost-effective online collection that provides access to academic resources, testing and career center, teaching books for early literacy and Rosetta Stone. Managed by the Indiana State Library, INSPIRE has been supported by the Indiana General Assembly since 1998. www.inspire.in.gov

ILF advocates for continued funding support for INSPIRE databases used by schools, libraries, colleges, universities and residents as a critical educational and workforce support.

Certified teacher librarians and school library materials in K-12 education

The academic success of students corresponds with the presence of an effective school library program, led by a certified librarian. The school library supports all learners. Qualified school librarians teach students to navigate information and collaborate with fellow teachers in integrating print and digital resources into classroom and e-learning instruction.

The funding requirement for school library materials has not increased since 1989, while the cost for print and digital resources has more than doubled. Schools struggle to meet the requirements for library staffing and materials.

Research shows that access to library materials bridges the achievement gap, most significantly for children of color and children in poverty.

Did you know?

A **school librarian**, also called a media specialist, is a **licensed teacher** who has qualified to add **school librarian certification** to their license.

Most Indiana school librarians hold a **Master of Library and Information Science**, which includes graduate courses in **information and data systems, library management, ethics** and ways to **measure learner growth in information literacy**.



ILF advocates for schools to develop and maintain effective school library programs with qualified teacher librarians supported by library assistant paraprofessionals. ILF advocates for \$2 million from the State budget to be distributed to schools to support an increase of \$2 per student per year specifically for school library materials.

Expanded broadband

A thriving economy and educated workforce depends upon access to high-speed broadband. Access to high-speed internet is critical for student success, for skilling up in employment through online training or distance education, for finding and applying for jobs, for completing e-government transactions and for participating in the modern economy. *ILF advocates for initiatives that provide additional broadband coverage for residents and communities, including schools and libraries.*

Support your Indiana libraries by getting involved in our advocacy. Learn more at www.ilfonline.org

School, public and academic libraries advance education, workforce development and quality of life.

The Indiana Library Federation supports...

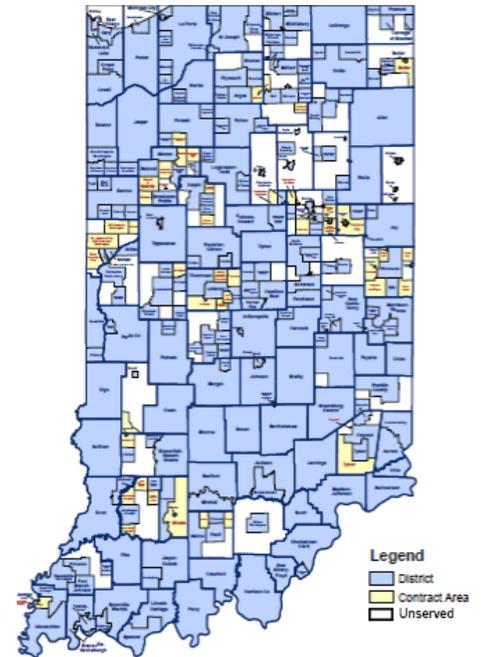
Libraries and lifelong learning

Indiana's libraries provide critical resources to residents throughout their lives. Parents, early learners and homeschooling families participate in parent groups, programs and STEM activities. Libraries prepare students of all ages to ask questions, identify credible sources, broaden perspectives and make informed decisions. People increase knowledge and skills through computer classes, one-on-one instruction and self-directed learning classes. Low literacy is a significant barrier to employment. *ILF actively advocates for lifelong learning initiatives to increase literacy, educational attainment and workforce development.*

Library service for all

Every Indiana resident should have access to library services. Currently, 36 counties have geographic areas that are unserved by public libraries. *ILF advocates ensuring library service for all Indiana residents.*

Library funding – Funding for school, public and academic libraries is affected by property tax assessments, referenda, definitions of capital expenses, higher education and many other policies. *ILF advocates stable funding structures for library services.*



The Indiana Library Federation will be positioned for action on...



Library services - The section of the Indiana Code related to libraries is not keeping pace with the changes in information, delivery systems or communities. *ILF supports updating the definition of library services in the Indiana Code to reflect how libraries are responsive to changing needs in communities.*

Efforts to re-organize local government - Indiana's libraries continue to responsibly steward taxpayer funds dedicated to libraries. *ILF seeks to be a part of any possible proposals that might change the governance, funding or oversight of libraries.*

Changes to **employment, compensation and retirement programs** that affect library staff, including school librarians.

Our approach to advocacy

- Indiana Library Federation is a statewide nonprofit association that is dedicated to advancing library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.
- Indiana Library Federation is nonpartisan and reflects the core values of the library field, including lifelong learning, freedom of ideas and civil discourse.
- Indiana Library Federation monitors public policies that affect all types of libraries and the people who work in and support them. ILF engages its members and stakeholders to be positioned for action in library advocacy.

Indiana Library Federation

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