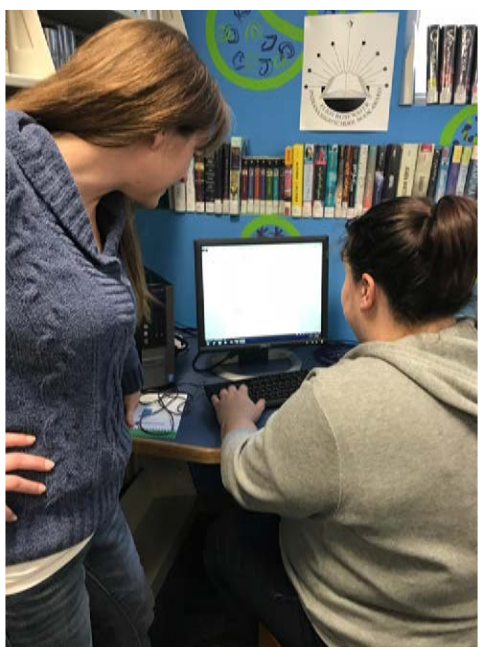


Indiana Library Federation



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**BECAUSE EMPLOYERS
WANT CANDIDATES
WHO KNOW THE
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
A WEB SEARCH
AND RESEARCH**

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

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 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 through Build Indiana Funds, matched by federal funds, and others sources since 1998. *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.



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.

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**.

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

The Indiana Library Federation advocates for...

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.*

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, as 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.*

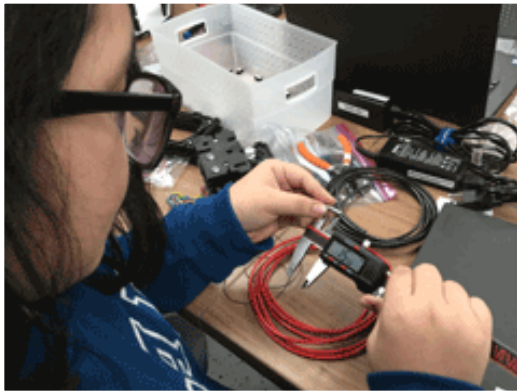
Efforts to re-organize local government - Indiana's libraries continue to steward the mission and taxpayer funds dedicated to libraries. *ILF seeks to be part of any possible proposals that might change the governance, funding or oversight of libraries.*

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

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Workforce Skills

- **Eastern Indiana Works**, a workforce development organization serving a nine-county region, co-located its Henry County **WorkOne** office within the **New Castle-Henry County Public Library** in 2018. This partnership helps deliver WorkOne services at a high-traffic place while aligning with the library's mission to help the community live, learn and grow.
- **Vigo County Public Library** developed **Haute Create**, a dedicated space with state-of-the-art technologies and innovative tools to encourage creativity and design skills in Vigo County residents of all ages. Library-generated programs and services help businesses succeed and people find jobs. Reducing barriers allows individuals access to resources, resulting in a skilled workforce.



Collaboration

- Launching in the 2019-2020 school year, the **Mobile Classroom of La Porte County** will provide students with hands-on, inquiry-based instruction to expose students to engineering, science, and technology that will enable them to develop an awareness of their own abilities and interests. A bus outfitted with technology from local industry will travel to schools, providing students learning experiences that correlate with Indiana's Academic Standards and college and career readiness skills. The **La Porte County Public Library** leads this effort in partnership with local schools, Career & Technical Education and business partners. The library's current shared services agreements with local school corporations serve 1,271 teachers and 15,685 students through the Libraries 360 program.
- In response to the crisis with **Muncie Community Schools**, **Muncie Public Library** led efforts to create a shared library catalog and to support the remaining two librarians in the schools. Last year, Bracken Library of **Ball State University** assisted with cleaning up migrated records.

Indiana Library Federation provides

Member services and Professional Development – mentoring program; scholarship program; recognition awards; technical assistance; leadership development; high quality content and speakers; access to authors; and continuing education units.

Advocacy – advancing Indiana's libraries and librarianship through advocacy and legislative efforts.

Programs and Special projects – programs that encourage reading, literacy and community engagement; two premier book awards designed and voted by students and adults. Recent special projects include the *2017 Adult Literacy Study* for IN Dept. of Workforce Development; the *2018 Status Report on Indiana School Libraries*, which documents the changing staffing and features of school libraries; and the *Best Practice Guide for Supervised Visits in the Library*, in partnership with IN Dept. of Child Services.

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.

How to get involved

Visit www.ilfonline.org and sign up for our newsletter.



Photo acknowledgements - Photos are used with permission by

1. Delphi Public Library - One-on-one computer assistance
2. *Indianapolis Star* - 2017 Top Ten Finalist for Indiana Teacher of the Year Kathleen Rauth and students
3. Indiana University - Computer lab
4. Carmel Clay Elementary - STEM
5. Ball State University - Study group
6. La Porte County Public Library - Student working with a caliper
8. Kendallville Public Library - First library card

Indiana Library Federation

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