

Indiana Library Federation

2020 Legislative and Policy Priorities

The Indiana Library Federation actively advocates for...

Stable taxing structures that support libraries

Public Libraries are funded primarily by property taxes, though an increasing number of libraries are relying on local income taxes. 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 for stable taxing structures to support libraries.*



Library card access for children in foster care

While in foster care, children may visit libraries or attend a school that collaborates with a public library, where the child does not have access to a library card because of residency.* Some libraries have created special “work-arounds” to enable the foster child to have library card access. ILF seeks to ensure that early experiences with the library create in the foster child a lifelong love of learning through use of the full range of library services. *ILF seeks to ensure library card access for foster children.*

* Library cards are tied to residency of the parent. In the process of reunification and supervised visits, the child may be visiting in the home library of the suspended custodial biological parent, the non-custodial parent, the foster parent, a group home, or the area of the court or DCS contracted provider. In an effort to improve service for families in the reunification process, ILF worked with the Indiana Department of Child Services to develop the [Best Practice Guide for Supervised Visits in the Library](#).

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, skilling up in employment through online training or distance education, finding and applying for jobs, completing e-government transactions and participating in the modern economy. *ILF advocates for initiatives that provide additional broadband coverage for residents and communities, including schools and libraries.*



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

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** degree, which includes graduate courses in **information and data systems, library management, ethics** and ways to **measure learner growth in information literacy**.

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. 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.*

Our approach to advocacy

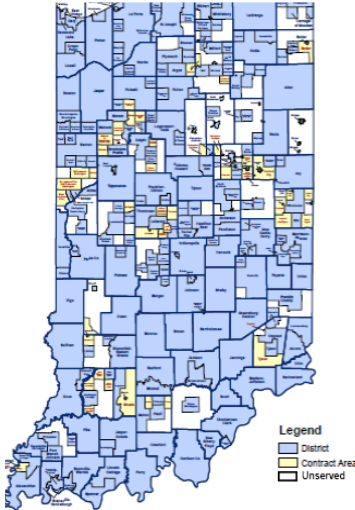
- Indiana Library Federation is a statewide nonprofit association that is dedicated to advancing library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.
- Indiana Library Federation is nonpartisan and reflects the core values of the library field, including lifelong learning, freedom of ideas and civil 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 leads, educates and advocates to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.

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 and a quality of place

With demographic and economic shifts, the public library serves as a hub of the community for meeting, learning and community. Currently, 36 counties have geographic areas that are unserved by public libraries and are considered library deserts. *ILF advocates ensuring library service to enhance a quality of place for all Indiana residents.*

Funding in the State Budget - ILF educates policy makers about three items for inclusion in the State Budget:

- **Internet connectivity for libraries and schools** - 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 through partial reimbursement from funding in the state budget.
- **INSPIRE** - INSPIRE is an online collection that provides access to academic resources, testing and career center, teaching books for early literacy and genealogy resources. Managed by the Indiana State Library, INSPIRE has been supported by the Indiana General Assembly since 1998. www.inspire.in.gov
- **School Library Materials** - 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.



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.*

Efforts to restrict the ability of libraries to deliver services - Certain policies and practices in digital markets limit the libraries' ability to deliver core services. *ILF stands up for Hoosiers' right to read.*

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

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