

## LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM FOR 2016

### 2016 Legislative Platform

MLA and ITEM support the appropriation of \$10 million for the 2016-2017 biennium for the construction of public library buildings through the State's currently authorized matching program. (*Minnesota Statutes 134.45*)

### MLA and ITEM support legislative initiatives introduced by other partners

- Capital budget requests for new and improved library facilities from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU).
- The recommendations of the Governor's Broadband Taskforce in order to ensure equity of access to high speed telecommunications for all Minnesotans.
- The vision of the Minnesota Border to Border Broadband Conference: Everyone in Minnesota will be able to use convenient, affordable, world-class broadband networks that enable us to survive and thrive in our communities and across the globe.
- Programs that integrate the critical role of libraries and librarians in fostering early literacy.
- Programs that incorporate libraries as essential providers for out-of-school learning activities to reduce the achievement gap. Essential partners include Ignite Afterschool.

In just one year, Minnesotans:

- Visited libraries 24 million times
- Checked out 54 million items
- Attended 38 thousand children’s programs at libraries
- Used MnLINK to borrow more than 1 million items
- Searched the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) nearly 56 million times

