

# 2017

## MLA/ITEM Legislative Platform

### *Talking Points*

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## **WHAT IS BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES?**

- *Minnesota schools and public libraries receive state support to help pay for the cost of high speed Internet access that remains after federal E-rate discounts have been applied.*

## **WHAT ARE WE REQUESTING FOR BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES?**

- *Increased annual funding for public schools \$3.75 to \$9.75 million per year.*
- *Continued annual funding for public libraries at \$2.3 million per year.*

## **WHY ARE WE REQUESTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES?**

- *Use of mobile devices has exploded over the past two years.*
- *This dramatic increase has severely taxed the capacities of both wireless servers and bandwidth in general.*
- *Minnesota schools and public libraries need to greatly expand the broadband networks serving their institutions in order to keep up with the demands of their users.*

## **WHY IS BROADBAND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS FOR SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *Internet access is mission critical for schools and public libraries.*
- *Digital content, increasingly accessed over mobile devices, requires higher levels of bandwidth. Schools use the Internet in their daily operations including student instruction, food service, communications, transportation, accounting, and procurement.*
- *Public libraries need Internet access to manage collections, provide access to digital materials and research capabilities, and serve as public Internet access centers.*

## **HOW DO SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC LIBRARIES USE BROADBAND ACCESS?**

1. *Citizens without broadband access at home or who lack proficient computer skills visit their public library and use the computers to communicate, file for government services, search for employment, research special topics, and conduct personal business. Families with dial-up or low-bandwidth connections use public library Internet access for projects and software that require higher bandwidth. Citizens with wireless devices sync up with the public library wireless whenever they are in the building to place and respond to ongoing calls and messages.*
2. *Schools are increasingly creating and using digital learning resources instead of purchasing traditional textbooks. Schools are also expanding networks to allow for students to bring their own Internet enabled devices for educational purposes and are using more school-owned tablet devices in classrooms. These conditions are causing a steady increase in the amount of bandwidth needed by schools. Students continue to use school-owned tablets at the public library to complete homework after school, in the evenings and on the weekends.*

3. *Students access distance-learning opportunities from post-secondary education institutions, other Minnesota K-12 schools, and online learning programs. Examples include the Online College in High School program, various interactive video courses, and the Online Chinese Project that provides instruction in Mandarin Chinese that is not available in their home districts to students throughout Minnesota.*
4. *Internet-based audio and videoconferencing technology is used to connect educators and librarians and peers across the globe. Students, teachers, librarians and administrators use broadband access to collaborate on curriculum development and library applications, conduct meetings, participate in professional development, and access information beyond the geographic and resource limitations of their communities.*
5. *Public library customers use online systems (MNLINK) to access books and materials through interlibrary loan, effectively making all the resources of all Minnesota libraries available to customers statewide.*
6. *Institutions such as museums, historical societies, zoos, and other centers of culture provide interactive learning opportunities to students through “field trips” using broadband connections and videoconferencing. These experiences provide 21st century learning opportunities to students in rural areas who might otherwise miss out because of the high costs of long-distance visits.*
7. *Citizens interested in computer-related technologies depend on public libraries to provide education and training on a variety of tools and applications such as Skype, web cams, GPS systems, digital cameras, slide-show production and electronic reading devices, smartphones and tablets.*
8. *Parents use districts’ broadband connections to access information from district databases on their child’s educational progress and achievement, manage lunch accounts, and participate in the school community.*
9. *Schools use broadband and cloud services to conduct their daily business using cloud-based classroom documents and email, managing finances and tracking student achievement on outsourced cloud-based databases, reporting required data to the state and federal government, and connecting with the local community.*
10. *Students in school library media centers and citizens in public libraries use resources found in the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM), and the thousands of e-books, including electronic textbooks, available to all citizens through NetLibrary, eBooks MN and other sources. Public libraries provide access to downloadable audiobooks and ebooks, as well as electronic magazines, from remote locations to the users’ devices.*

## WHY IS **EARLY LITERACY AND OUT OF SCHOOL TIME FUNDING** VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?

- *Children's reading levels become indicators of school success in every grade.*
- *The public library is the only place every family has access to free, quality reading materials.*
- *Library resources are the first or only access to the internet and other technology.*
- *Libraries promote early literacy skills because the skills needed by kids to be good readers.*
- *happen before they get to school, and these are skills kids learn alongside their parents.*
- *PreK and Headstart don't have the same kind of parental interaction that librarians offer.*
- *families through storytime and early literacy programming.*
- *We are investing in healthy communities by providing early literacy skills to our children and parents.*
- *Summertime reading prevents the summer slide between grades in all subjects, saving tax dollars, and building stronger schools.*
- *Teens build a sense of community, empathy, and belonging by engaging in issues they care about, and by building trusted relationships with adults in their spaces outside of home and school.*
- *Libraries are uniquely situated to provide space, access to issues, and respected mentors for teens.*
- *Through free afterschool and summer programming, teens build skills to become the leaders our communities need for tomorrow.*
- *Free library programs could grow into ideas that will positively benefit our communities.*
- *The library is a FREE, SAFE place for children of all ages to be.*

**WHAT ARE WE REQUESTING FOR LEGACY AMENDMENT FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES?**

- *An appropriation of \$4.25 million per year for regional public library systems.*

**WHY ARE WE REQUESTING LEGACY AMENDMENT FUNDING FOR LIBRARIES?**

- *Legacy programs in public libraries expand cultural awareness, develop a sense of history and create connections between communities and local artists.*
- *Legacy programs in public libraries provide free and equitable access to arts and cultural experiences and educational opportunities for all ALL Minnesotans.*
- *Legacy programs in public libraries provide opportunity for creativity and innovation through the arts.*
- *Legacy programs in public libraries improve the quality of life for individuals and spark community engagement.*

## **WHAT IS MINITEX?**

- *Minitex is a publicly supported network of academic, public, state government, and special libraries working cooperatively to improve library service in Minnesota.*
- *Minitex is funded by the Minnesota Legislature through the Minnesota Office of Higher Education (OHE) to serve Minnesota academic and state government libraries. Minitex is a joint program of OHE and the University of Minnesota.*
- *Minitex is also funded by State Library Services, a unit of the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), to support Minnesota libraries and library users.*

## **WHY IS MINITEX VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *Minitex connects libraries and individuals with information, ideas, and experiences to enrich lives and strengthen our communities.*
- *Minitex enables Minnesota's library community to take advantage of economies of scale with regard to essential library functions: interlibrary loan and delivery, online resources, and purchasing.*
- *Minitex helps libraries anticipate the future and prepare for it by providing education and training and opportunities for connection.*
- *Minitex fosters and sustains a culture of collaboration among Minnesota's libraries.*

## **WHAT IS EBOOKS MINNESOTA?**

- *Ebooks Minnesota is an online ebook collection made possible in part by funding from MDE through a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS).*
- *Ebooks Minnesota is a joint project of Minitex and State Library Services.*

## **WHY IS EBOOKS MINNESOTA VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *Ebooks Minnesota makes ebooks available to readers in every corner of our state, including rural libraries and schools.*
- *Ebooks Minnesota is an online ebook collection for Minnesotans of all ages. Access to the collection is unlimited; there is no waiting for a book, no "returns," no charge.*
- *Ebooks Minnesota covers a wide variety of subjects, and features content from our state's independent publishers, including some of our best literature and nonfiction.*

## **WHAT IS THE ELECTRONIC LIBRARY FOR MINNESOTA (ELM)?**

- *ELM is a service of Minitex funded by OHE and MDE.*
- *ELM gives all Minnesota residents online access to magazine, journal, newspaper, and encyclopedia articles, ebooks, and other information resources.*

## **WHY IS ELM VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *ELM provides Minnesotans with the best possible access to information resources across the educational spectrum.*
- *Minnesotans searched ELM 61 million times in FY 2016.*

### **WHAT IS THE MINNESOTA DIGITAL LIBRARY (MDL)?**

- *MDL is a service of Minitex supported by the Legacy Amendment via the Minnesota Historical Society.*

### **WHY IS MDL VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *MDL supports discovery and education through access to unique digital collections shared by cultural heritage organizations from across Minnesota. Contributors include libraries, historical societies, museums, and archives.*
- *MDL provides education and training opportunities concerning digitization best practices, metadata for digital collections, and digital preservation.*
- *MDL's primary online collection is Minnesota Reflections. The collection includes more than 50,000 digitized items from 185 contributing organizations.*

### **WHAT IS MNLINK?**

- *MNLINK is a service of Minitex. The system and ILL services are funded by OHE and MDE.*
- *MNLINK is a statewide system that serves as a discovery and interlibrary loan interface for library patrons and staff.*

### **WHY IS MNLINK VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *Through MNLINK's participating libraries, patrons have easy access to browsing and borrowing from the catalogs of most libraries in Minnesota.*
- *In addition to the physical books held in these libraries, MNLINK provides access to electronic resources including journals, images, and ebooks.*

## WHAT CHANGES ARE WE REQUESTING FOR **MULTICOUNTY MULTITYPE LIBRARY SYSTEMS?**

- *Increased funding from \$1.3 million to \$2 million annually for the seven multicounty multitype library systems to support communication, resource sharing, staff development, and collaborative programming that connects all types of Minnesota libraries.*

## WHAT ARE **MULTICOUNTY MULTITYPE LIBRARY SYSTEMS?**

- *Multitype library systems connect people and libraries to print, electronic, and human resources.*
  - *Services include:*
    - *Reference referral*
    - *Cooperative purchasing*
    - *Negotiated discounts*
    - *Free materials exchanges*
  - *Communication streams include:*
    - *Web sites*
    - *Newsletters*
    - *Electronic discussion groups*
    - *Regional meetings.*
- *Multitype library systems connect library staff in all types of libraries to professional staff development opportunities.*
  - *Development opportunities include:*
    - *Online and face-to-face learning opportunities around ever-changing library products and services*
    - *Regional and local conferences*
    - *Statewide curricula around technology-related learning*
    - *Scholarships/grant opportunities for staff at all levels*
    - *Day-long training Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM) databases in collaboration with Minitex.*
    - *Connecting school and academic librarians to increase student readiness for post-secondary education.*
- *Multitype library system staff provide planning and consulting services to all types of libraries.*
  - *Services include:*
    - *Policy development and sharing of best practices*
    - *Process review and improvement*
    - *Assistance with decision-making on collection development & discarding of library materials*
    - *Grant-seeking and writing assistance*
    - *Library visits to all types of libraries to assist in organization, remodel planning, and library operations.*

## **WHY ARE MULTICOUNTY MULTITYPE LIBRARY SYSTEMS VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *Connected libraries and resources strengthen Minnesota.*
- *Multitype library system services strengthen public, school, academic, and special libraries.*
- *Professional Development and Staff Training Strengthen Minnesota.*
- *Trained library staff are better able to meet the needs of their library users.*
- *Strategic Planning and Consulting Strengthen Minnesota*
- *The seven multicounty multitype library systems have built solid relationships and networks among Minnesota libraries.*
- *Staff is trusted to provide high-quality applicable information to libraries seeking education, training, or change.*
- *These systems are well-positioned as leaders in the library community to drive change, serve unique needs and provide first-rate service to strengthen Minnesota libraries.*

## **WHAT CHANGES ARE WE REQUESTING FOR **RLBSS**?**

- *An increase of \$3 million per year to RLBSS funds.*
- *A change to the formula for RLBSS funds to increase the Basic System Services factor from 5% to 15% and reduce the equalization factor from 25% to 15%.*
- *That the distribution formula be based on the population and tax capacity figures as reported by the Minnesota State Department of Revenue and the Minnesota State Demographic Center on January 1.*
- *These requests are unanimously supported by all twelve Regional Public Library System Governing Boards.*

## **WHY ARE WE REQUESTING REQUESTING THESE CHANGES TO **RLBSS**?**

- *This request is intended to increase total RLBSS funding to reflect the increased costs and changing use patterns of public library services, and*
- *The requested formula changes will reduce the volatility of the equalization factor in the formula as property tax valuations shift throughout the state.*
- *Present statutory language bases RLBSS calculations upon fiscal year numbers, requiring systems to begin establishing their budgets for the next calendar year before the official figures needed to calculate RLBSS shares are available.*
- *An increase in funding, plus a formula change, will provide a stable funding source for all regional public library systems across the state.*
- *Total State RLBSS has increased only once in over 20 years, and no new dollars have been introduced into the RLBSS formula since FY 2009.*
- *An increase of \$3 million per year would represent an annual rate of growth of less than 2.5% from FY 2010 through FY 2018.*

## **WHY IS **RLBSS** VALUABLE TO MINNESOTA?**

- *Regional Public Library Systems serve as a cornerstone for public library services throughout the state and provide the foundation for Minnesota residents to access cooperative statewide services including Minitex/MnLINK interlibrary loan, ELM databases, reciprocal borrowing privileges, staff training, and more.*
- *Minnesota's public libraries provide vital services that address community needs.*