



2018 Legislative Platform

The South Dakota Library Association calls on legislators to recognize the importance of all libraries in South Dakota. Today's libraries are not just about what we have for people, but what we do for and with people. All sizes and types of libraries are a smart investment because libraries and librarians transform lives and communities. Rather than becoming obsolete or simply "nice to have," libraries are *essential* in the 21st century because:

- More than 1 quarter of the households in South Dakota do not have internet access at home.
- Most South Dakota jobs now require an online application.
- For every dollar spent on SD public libraries, residents get a 'Return on Investment' of at least \$4 in programs and services used by the local citizens.
- The best search engine in the library is the librarian.
- Audiobooks from libraries turn commutes across the state into adventures.
- Learning starts before kindergarten.
- Learning to read comes before reading to learn.
- Research shows that summer reading programs help eliminate reading gaps and have a positive effect on student achievement.
- College students could never afford all the scholarly journals needed to conduct in-depth research.
- South Dakota employers want candidates who know the difference between a web search and research.

Therefore, the South Dakota Library Association encourages strong state and local support to fund 21st century school libraries in South Dakota. SDLA also supports community efforts to strengthen their local public libraries. Likewise, SDLA urges continuing reauthorization of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency which offers "Grants to States" that fund state priorities and equalize free access to information for all our citizens.