

MLA/ITEM 2018 Platform DRAFT Endorsed by Leg Committee/Leg Forum September 2017

Note: There is the potential for change in the Platform, depending on the work of the 2018 Legislative Session. Some of the language--dollar amounts for library system support & bonding in particular--are still to be decided/changed based on factors outside of our control and current knowledge--state budget forecast, existence of a legislative supplemental budget, & other factors. With that in mind, the memberships of MLA & ITEM are asked to are asked to endorse/accept the Platform in concept with the understanding that revisions may need to be made by the Boards.

2018 MLA/ITEM LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM

The Minnesota Library Association (MLA) and the Information and Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) support state funding for the following programs that sustain and expand library services in Minnesota:

1. Basic funding for libraries

- Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS): increased funding from \$13.57 million to \$16.57 million annually with a corresponding formula change to provide stable funding for all regional public library systems across the state.
- Multicounty Multitype Library Support: increased funding from \$1.3 million to \$2 million annually to support communication, resource sharing, sta development, and collaborative programming connecting all types of Minnesota libraries.

2. Bonding

- MLA and ITEM support the appropriation of \$10 million over the 2017-18 biennium for construction and remodeling of public library buildings through the State's currently authorized matching program (M.S. 134.45)

3. School Librarians Grant Pool

- MLA and ITEM support funding a grant pool to enable school districts to increase access to licensed library media specialist in districts which face a shortage of licensed media staff. (HF 2698)

Statements of Support

The following efforts enhance library service to all Minnesota students and residents. As representatives of libraries of all types, MLA/ITEM support funding in the following areas:

- Continued funding for Minitex, the Electronic Library for Minnesota (ELM), the Minnesota Digital Library (MDL), and MNLINK, the statewide interlibrary loan and delivery system.
- Funding for EBooks MN to provide increased content and access to ebooks for libraries and school media centers.
- Funding after school and community programs that recognize the essential role libraries play to foster early literacy, provide out-of-school learning opportunities, and contribute to workforce development and college and career readiness.
- Annual funding for broadband for public libraries (RLTA) at \$2.3 million per year.
- Increased annual funding for K-12 Broadband Equity Aid from \$3.75 million per year to \$9.75 million per year.
- Requests for increases in Local Government Aid and County Program Aid because these funding sources support government operations at the city and county level. An increase in the revenue base for cities and counties may result in additional funding support for library services at the local level.

Questions or comments:
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