

Memo

To: Montana State Library Commission

From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian

Date: March 22, 2012

Re: State Aid Task Force Recommendation

In September 2011 the State Library sat a task force to review the current distribution mechanisms for the disbursement of State Aid to public libraries. This task force was given the following charges:

- Recommend changes to the state aid formula that are fair to all public libraries, as consistent as possible, and uses some sort of outside number as verification (i.e. Census data)
- Recommend a frequency for how often the numbers for the formula are updated. For example should the population estimates be updated every 5 years, 10 years, or something else.

More information about the work of the State Aid task force, including study tools, is available on the MSL website:

http://www.msl.mt.gov/About_MSL/State_Aid_Task_Force/default.asp.

After careful review, as is described in the accompanying memo, this task force recommends no change to how state aid is calculated or distributed.

I want to commend the task force for their careful consideration of this issue and thank them for the time they spent coming to this important recommendation. I recommend that the Commission accept the task force's recommendation as presented.