



MEMO

To: State Library Commission
From: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian and Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting Librarian
Subject: Adding tribal college libraries to ARM 10.102.4003
Date: June 7, 2024

The proposed changes to ARM 10.102.4003 were published in the Montana Administrative Register. We requested public comment with a deadline of June 7, 2024. There has been only one comment, and it was in favor of the changes and including tribal college libraries in the formula.

Public comment – “I feel it is important to include tribal college libraries that serve the public to be eligible to receive state aid funding. In some situations, the tribal college library may be the only available resource to people who do not live close enough to or have access to another public library.”

Given the support shown by the library community at various spring meetings, staff are requesting the commission adopt the draft language proposed for ARM 10.102.4003 which will allow staff to allocate funding for any tribal college libraries that are eligible for state aid per capita.

DRAFT LANGUAGE FOR PROPOSED ARM CHANGES

The rules proposed to be amended provide as follows, new matter underlined, deleted matter interlined:

10.102.4003 DIRECT STATE AID TO PUBLIC LIBRARIES FOR PER CAPITA AND FOR PER SQUARE MILE SERVED

(1) remains the same.

(2) The per square mile portion of the direct state aid to public libraries will be updated during the decennial census process and distributed annually based on the following:



(a) through (b) remain the same.

(c) Annually, MSL staff will consult with the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning and use its collected tribal enrollment number. If an accredited tribal college library, serving the public, qualifies for state aid, their tribal enrollment number will be multiplied by the per capita amount of state aid. The resulting total for all eligible accredited tribal college libraries will then be subtracted from the overall state aid budget allocated for eligible public libraries. The remaining state aid will be distributed annually, guided by the criteria set forth above.

(3) remains the same.

(4) In each county which has no public libraries, the State Library will contact the county commission indicating that the county will qualify for per capita and per square mile state aid if the county commission establishes county-wide library services as provided for in state statute, or if the county commission contract for library services with another county or municipal library as provided for in state statute. If such means are not established with a six-month period following written notice received from the State Library, the state aid which would have gone to the county will be allotted to the federation headquarters library in whose area this county is located ~~for use in federation activities.~~

AUTH: [22-1-103](#), MCA

IMP: [22-1-103](#), MCA

REASON: These amendments are proposed to update the language of the ARM to reflect changes to MCA 22-1-326 in the 2023 Legislative Session.