

Memo

To: Jennie Stapp, State Librarian **To:** Montana State Library Commission

From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting & Learning Librarian

Date: November 16, 2020

Re: Recommendations from the Public Library Standards Task Force

The Public Library Standards Task Force met on November 10, 2020. The group recommends that the Commission begin a new public comment period using the revised drafts that appear in the Commission's December meeting materials.

Changes to the documents include the following:

- Only the essential standards will be included in the Administrative Rules of Montana with one standard asking libraries to review the road map. The essential standards are the only ones that libraries will need to meet to receive state funding.
- The essential standards were simplified and modified to reflect the comments we heard from the Montana library community.
- The task force liked the use of the road map as a library development tool that libraries could use to improve services locally or regionally. State Library staff will support and encourage libraries in reaching for the excellent and cooperative standards.

Updated timeline of the standards. If the Commission takes the recommendation of the task force, we will be on a very similar timeline to our original work. The difference will

be that the standards would not be implemented until July 1, 2022 or FY23. Here is a potential timeline for these revised standards.

- December – present draft to the Commission for review
- December – March – public comment period
- April Commission meeting – take action on whether or not to move revised standards to administrative rules process.
- April – June – formal administrative rules public comment period
- June 2021 – Commission takes action on revised standards in formal administrative rules meeting
- Summer 2021 – if Commission adopts new standards MSL staff and libraries will begin transition to new standards
- Fall 2021 – communicate with public libraries on new standards and provide support, as needed
- July 1, 2022 – libraries will be asked to comply with new standards