

Memo

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

From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting & Learning Librarian

Date: February 16, 2021

Re: Update on public comment on proposed changes to standards

After preliminary State Library Commission review of the newly revised public library standards in December 2020, State Library staff have hosted two public comment meetings. We will host one last meeting on March 4, 2021 and will discuss the proposed changes to the standards at federation meetings in the spring. 21 people have attended the public comment meetings and staff have received a few email comments.

Here are the highlights:

- There is concern about “If the library is a department of local government, the library receives equitable support for its budget when compared to other departments. If the library receives less funding and support as compared to other departments, the library director and Board document that they have made local government officials aware of this fact.”
 - There is concern about the execution/implementation of this standard. There is also concern about creating competition between departments.
 - State Library staff will ask the task force to review this standard.
- There was concern about the wording of “People with disabilities have access to technology and assistance with using that technology.”
 - People are concerned about application. They are in support of the concept.
 - Suggested wording changes by librarians: “Reasonable accommodations are made so that people with disabilities have access to the library's

services and assistance with using those services as staff time and knowledge allows.”

- The task force will consider this suggestion at their meeting.
- Overall, people liked the new draft. They have expressed appreciation that the task force listened to them.
- There were a few clarifying questions and suggestions for how to support libraries in the implementation of the new standards.
- People liked the road map concept.

Next steps/Timeline

- Final public comment meeting on March 4, 2021. Continue to collect comments at spring federation meetings.
- Public library standards task force meeting to review public comment summary, discuss recommendations and questions, and make any necessary changes to the current drafts will occur on March 17, 2021.
- Presentation of final draft goes to Commission on April 14, 2021.
- Commission will be asked to vote on whether to go through administrative rules process to update current public library standards.