



MEMO

To: 2023 Public Library Standards Task Force Members
From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting Librarian and Cara Orban, Consortia Director
Subject: Defining state payments when requiring standards compliance
Date: August 14, 2023

Currently public libraries receive the following state funding

- State aid per capita – a statutory appropriation that uses the formula within administrative rules. This funding can be used in a variety of ways.
- Funding that comes through library federations – this is coal severance tax funding. The way it is used is determined by each of the federations.

Though not defined in Administrative Rule, the Attorney General's Office determined that the previous set of rules implied that in order to receive any state funding libraries needed to comply with the public library standards. The State library currently follows this legal opinion. It would be helpful to define state funding in rule as it pertains to the public library standards. This will be valuable for the libraries and for MSL staff that are processing payments.

Should we define state funding based on the current legal opinion that requires libraries to meet the standards to receive any state funding from any source? Or should we only tie state aid per capita to the requirement to comply with the standards? What are the pros and cons of each of these options? Do task force members have other suggestions?