



## MEMO

**To:** 2023 Public Library Standards Task Force Members  
**From:** Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting Librarian and Cara Orban, Consortia Director  
**Subject:** State Aid Eligibility and Personnel Requirements  
**Date:** September 14, 2023

The Public Library Standards Task Force requested information regarding public library state aid eligibility in 21 states where a Master of Library Science degree was not initially specified as a requirement for public library directors. Of those 21 states, nine (Alabama, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, New Jersey, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and Virginia) do specify that hiring a professionally certified librarian is a requirement for state aid eligibility. Three other states (New Hampshire, Oregon, and Vermont) do not require specific credentials but may award additional state aid to libraries that maintain accreditation. The remaining nine states do not have any specifications or incentives connected with professional accreditation or do not offer state aid.

- Alabama: State aid requires a “qualified library director”
- Arizona: No information about state aid found
- Georgia: 50% of state aid for personnel must be spent on certified professional librarians with an ALA-accredited MLS degree, including the director of the public library.
- Illinois: State aid eligibility is tied to a plan of service and projected fiscal year budget.
- Indiana: Libraries must meet public library standards in order to be eligible for state aid. Libraries serving 10,000 - 39,999 service area population (LC 2) must hire a director with an MLS and 2 years of professional experience.
- Iowa: Public libraries must meet library standards in order to qualify for a base amount of state aid funding. Libraries that meet enhanced standards, such as hiring a director with a graduate degree in library science, are eligible for additional state aid.
- Kansas: State aid eligibility is connected to local revenue maintenance of effort.
- Kentucky: State aid eligibility is not connected to the public library standards.
- Maine: Public libraries must maintain certification to be eligible for grants administered by the Maine State Library. This includes a requirement for either an MLS-degreed library director or a director who completes State Library certification through coursework that addresses American Library Association Core Competencies.
- Missouri: State aid eligibility is tied to local maintenance of effort.
- New Hampshire: State aid is allocated at a base level according to local maintenance of effort, with additional funds available to libraries that maintain certification and accreditation.
- New Jersey: In order to receive state aid, a public library must adhere to established standards depending upon the population of their town. Standards for personnel: the library director must have an ALA-accredited degree.
- North Dakota: State aid is tied to local maintenance of effort.

- Oregon: A public library must maintain accreditation to receive state aid, but there are no specific personnel requirements.
- Rhode Island: Public libraries must meet minimum public library standards to qualify for state aid, including the employment of a library director with an MLS or other master's degree whose formal accreditation process is recognized by the ALA.
- South Dakota: Libraries must be accredited to qualify for state aid. For service area populations over 10,000, this includes a library director with an MLS.
- Tennessee: No information about state aid.
- Vermont: Meeting standards is voluntary. However, the Vermont Department of Libraries "may...offer additional services to those public libraries which meet standards."
- Virginia: Have certified librarians in positions as required by state law. Libraries failing to employ a certified librarian in the position of director will have their state aid grant reduced by 25%.
- West Virginia: No information about state aid requirements.
- Wyoming: No information about state aid.