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Minnesota Library Association  
Minnesota Educational Media Organization

# Legislative Platform

## Public Library Facilities - Maintaining Infrastructure

MLA & MEMO propose that \$10 million for the biennium be allocated for public library capital improvements. Many Public Library buildings located throughout the state are obsolete, unable to accommodate new technology, unable to be expanded to meet the needs of new, frequently non-English speaking users and are not physically accessible. Furthermore because of obsolete heating and cooling systems, they are costly to operate. Many local cities and counties cannot afford to renovate or build new library buildings without assistance. The program would provide for a maximum grant of \$1,000,000 with a one-to-one match or 50% of the project cost up to \$1,000,000.

## Library and School Telecommunications - Maintaining Connections

MLA & MEMO support continued, equitable and improved high speed access to online resources for all Minnesota students and residents through the Learning Network of Minnesota. This can best be achieved through permanent funding as provided for in the *The Permanent Funding for K-12 Schools and Public Libraries Telecommunications Access Report*. The State of Minnesota should work to establish a permanent funding source for this essential educational network.

## State Library Agency - Maintaining Leadership

MLA & MEMO support the existence of a strong State Library Agency to coordinate statewide library issues and services. MLA & MEMO request that the Governor and Legislators provide funding for the restoration of essential services provided for in Statute.

## School Media Specialists - Maintaining Student Achievement

MEMO & MLA will work with the Department of Education to advocate and support the role of library media specialists in improving student achievement, which includes meeting the requirements of No Child Left Behind legislation and teaching information literacy, reading, technology and research skills.



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