



2024 Public Policy Agenda

Our mission is to lead, educate, and advocate to advance library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.

ILF boasts **2,000+** personal, institutional, library trustees, and contributing members from all **92** Indiana counties.

The 2024 ILF Public Policy Agenda:

- 1. Support Indiana's libraries as leaders in literacy who advance the science of reading all year long.**
 - Indiana's 2022 IREAD-3 results indicate that nearly 1 in 5 Indiana third graders lack the fundamental vocabulary and phonics skills required to become a reader.
 - As the State plans significant investments in literacy, libraries and librarians should be a critical partner in working toward long-term solutions for all Hoosiers.
 - Support the science of reading in both school and public libraries as well as academic libraries where teacher preparation programs occur.
 - Public libraries provide barrier-free access to quality early literacy activities and programming, like storytimes, for all community members.
 - ILF Advocates for certified teacher librarians in every school building throughout Indiana, because research shows that student success is directly linked to the presence of a certified librarian in the building (Frances Gretes Aug 2013).
- 2. Allow the 2023 law pertaining to collection development and challenge policy to work for at least two years.**
 - Do not make any added changes from 2023 legislation—goes into effect on January 1st.
 - Allow time for this new language to work to protect community interests while respecting the First Amendment.
 - Support the processes outlined in the new legislation for removal and replacement of library materials.
 - Libraries have a legal and professional obligation to ensure that all members of the communities they serve have free and equitable access to a diverse range of library resources and services. To meet this obligation requires the professional expertise of librarians who work in partnership with their communities to curate collections that serve the needs of all users.
 - The ILF strongly encourages parental involvement in their child's selection of reading materials.
- 3. Help Libraries Address Mental Health, Counseling and Unhoused Population Issues**
 - Support appropriated funds being directed to libraries as they are seen as the "community hub."
 - Work with the newly created ILF Mental Health Taskforce to understand issues that our libraries face in addressing the unhoused population, mental crisis, and counseling needs.
- 4. Support Universal Broadband for all Hoosiers**
- 5. Support continued state funding of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library**