



Information: Clarification on school library aid and media specialists

Wed, Jun 21, 2023 at 8:10 PM

To: masa-active@mnasa.org

Dear MASA Members,

Recent legislation involving media centers and school library aid has raised many questions. I reached out to Commissioner Jett and Deputy Commissioner Graff for guidance.

Here is their response that I was told I could share with you:

“The school library aid does not connect in law to the school library definition (which requires the licensed staff). Library aid may be spent on staff that are currently identified as media specialists but not “licensed” media specialists.

This will be in the FAQ:

Does a school library media specialist need to be licensed to use these funds?

No. A district may assign a non-certified staff identified as a library media specialist to work in the library.”

The FAQ will be coming out very soon.”

Have a good evening,

Deb

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) – School Library Aid

The following are current questions received related to School Library Aid. Please note that guidance is still being reviewed and more information will be available in the coming weeks. Watch for email notifications when new information is shared. This document will also be periodically updated as more questions are submitted and as guidance becomes available.

Statistics:

Statute Reference: 134.356 (new) **Availability:** FY24 and ongoing **Revenue Type:** State Aid
Spending Requirements/Restrictions: Yes **New (Uniform Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards (UFARS) coding):** Yes **Fund Balance:** Yes **Annual Report Required:** No **Budget Approval Required:** No

Who is eligible to receive School Library Aid?

Minnesota Statutes 2022, 134.356, subdivision 1, references school districts and charter schools are eligible to receive school library aid.

How is the funding calculated?

Aid is calculated at the greater of \$16.11 per Adjusted Pupil Unit (APU) of the current year, or \$40,000 for school districts and \$20,000 for charter schools. Unused school library aid must be reserved.

What are the uses for school library aid?

School library aid must be reserved and used for directly funding the costs of the following purposes **within a library:**

- Salaries and benefits of a school library media specialist
- Electronic, computer and audiovisual equipment
- Information technology infrastructure and digital tools
- Electronic and material resources
- Furniture, equipment, or supplies

Does a school library media specialist need to be licensed to use these funds?

No. A district may assign a non-certified staff identified as a library media specialist to work in the library.

Can a district or charter school use these funds to pay for existing staff identified as a school library media specialist?

Yes. Districts may use school library aid funds to pay for existing school library media specialists currently paid through other funding.

What is considered library space for the purposes of using the school library aid funds?

For the purposes of spending school library aid, a district or charter must identify space within their sites or buildings that is accessible to all enrolled students for use of equipment and checkout of materials. This space could be a part of an educational classroom or other common space, but there must be times set aside that the area deemed library can be accessed by all students. Districts and charters may also purchase online library resources, but must be accessible to all students and devices should be available in the designated library space if programming or software is purchased.

Can I use school library aid to replace one-to-one student devices?

No. Equipment purchases must be for use in the area designated as the library.

What if I don't have a licensed school media specialist as defined in the new 124D.901, definitions for library, can I still receive school library aid?

Yes. School library aid was not tied directly to the new definitions created in the 2023 legislation. The definitions were intended to support work related to receiving federal aids and grants. School library aid may be spent on those uses defined in the legislation.

How do I record the new school library aid revenue and expenses?

Information will be coming through the school finance team related to new finance and reserved balance sheet codes to track school library aid.

Who do I contact for more information on school library aid?

[Kateri Little](mailto:kateri.little@state.mn.us) (kateri.little@state.mn.us), School Finance Specialist.

Who do I contact for more information on creating, expanding, or improving our school libraries?

[Tamara Lee](mailto:Mde.lst@state.mn.us) (Mde.lst@state.mn.us), Director of State Library Services and Expanded Learning.

Reminder: Legislation Pertaining to New Naloxone Requirement

Governor Tim Walz signed legislation passed in the 2023 session requiring that each school district and charter school maintain a minimum of two doses of nasal naloxone in each school building, effective on July 1. MDE will be setting up a webinar for school leaders to provide information and guidance closer to the start of the school year. Additional guidance about ordering will be forthcoming. Here is a list of current resources for your review:

Model Policy for Naloxone Administration- The Minnesota School Board Association worked with MDE and MDH to finalize a Model Policy for Naloxone Administration. You can access this information on their website <https://mnmsba.org> under the Resource Library tab/Policies.

To find training resources for your schools, please follow the link below:

[Resources for Education and Staff Training – MDH](#)

Developing a School Emergency Response Procedure:

[Developing a School Emergency Response Procedure - MDH](#)

More resources for where to obtain naloxone can be found at:

[Naloxone Medication - MDH](#)

If you need further assistance, please email our MDE State School Nurse Consultant [Tara Swaby](#).