

# **Libraries and Service Delivery Consultation**

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# Libraries are many things to many people



# The 7 Point Plan for Excellence in Education and State Library Services

- **Better early childhood education**
- **Reading well by third grade**
- **Support for better schools**
- **A department that provides educational leadership and support**

# What do people want libraries to do?

- Offer free literacy programs to help young children (82%)
- Coordinate more closely with local schools (85%)
- Offer a broader selection of e-books (53%)
- Have more comfortable spaces for reading, working and relaxing (59%)

*Pew Research, Library Services in the Digital Age, 2014*

# Early Learning in Libraries

**Helps children avoid falling into the learning gap**

**Fills the learning gap with opportunities for**

- Healthy Food
- Access to Books
- Bonds with Caring Adults
- Self-regulation skills
- High Quality Education

**... Leads to School Success**

# Early Learning

## Children's Services in Minnesota Public Libraries

2013

35,800 free children's  
programs offered

990,706 attended  
children's programs

21,324,344  
materials circulated



At 356 libraries across the state

# Head Start Children in Minnesota

- **4% of eligible children served with state funds**
- **19% of eligible children served with federal funds**
- **77% of eligible children unserved by Head Start**

**Minnesota's libraries serve all children**

# What are Public Libraries doing about Early Learning?

- **Leveraging funding, such as Playful Learning in Libraries mini grants**
- **Exploring new and creative partnerships, including the Minnesota Children's Museum**
- **Offering support and training to ensure quality programs and services, including Every Child Ready to Read 2**



# What can Public Libraries Do?

- **Create a higher standard of service, evaluate the quality of programs and ensure equity**
- **Increase outreach, programs at community locations**
- **Minimize barriers to use, free or reduced fines**
- **Expand partnerships with like-minded organizations**

# Public Library and School Collaboration

- **Bolstering student achievement through**
  - **Classroom visits and sharing expertise with teachers and students**
  - **Working on a school-by-school basis to build relationships**
  - **Offering special events**
  - **Establishing partnerships**

# What can Public Libraries do with Schools?

- **Provide consistent access to education resources**
- **Connect community resources to support students**
- **Amp up informal learning opportunities**
- **Support developmental assets**

# What are libraries doing about e-books?

- **Using a variety of vendors and platforms**
- **Seeking out alternatives to offer best e-book selection**
- **Creating content and offering open education resources**

# **Libraries could go in many (e-book) directions**

- **Share e-books among all types of libraries across the state**
- **Negotiate directly with writers and publishers; use our own platform to purchase and own those books**
- **Provide e-books for all residents through a statewide e-library card available at any library in the state**

## More (e-book) steps libraries could take

- **Encourage local content creation \* create library 'geek squad' for tech support \* tablets and e-readers available for check out \* improve searching/browsing \* discuss statewide funding model \* simplify e-book access \* purchase more simultaneous use licenses \* build technology petting zoos \* devise statewide awareness campaign \* involve users in decision-making process \* build statewide broadband access \* create standardized e-reader \* provide more devices to schools \* create separate kid's catalog \* strengthen relationships with vendors**

**Thank you**

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