

10.102.1150A PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: GENERAL

(1) Public libraries receiving state payments must meet the following essential standards by July 2007 and each year following.

(2) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library is established under Montana's laws according to [22-1-301](#) through [22-1-317](#), [22-1-701](#) through [22-1-1711](#), or Title 7, MCA;

(b) The board conforms to all applicable state, local, and federal laws, rules, and regulations;

(c) Monthly, or at least six meetings a year with no gap between meetings greater than 90 days, library board meetings are held in an accessible location at times and a place convenient to the public and according to state laws on public meetings; and

(d) The library submits the Montana Public Library Annual Statistical Report to the Montana State Library.

(3) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) In order for the board to be knowledgeable about current library issues, new board members receive an orientation by the library director, a trustee, and/or others; and

(b) On an annual basis, board members report on how they have promoted and supported the library, its programs, and services.

(4) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library provides for continuing education for its trustees by allocating funds to support continuing education costs, including travel expenses;

(b) At least two members of the library board will attend a regional or statewide library related activity each year;

(c) Board members will discuss library issues with local government officials at least twice a year, and state and/or national government officials at least once a year;

(d) Every five years, the board will review, evaluate, and compare its own governance structure with different governance structures for the library. This includes districting, county library systems, etc;

(e) At least three library board members join any professional library association and dues are paid by the library; and

(f) At least two trustees are certified by the state library.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150B PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: POLICIES AND BYLAWS

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) Every three years, the board reviews and updates its bylaws as necessary;

(b) The board develops, studies, evaluates, reviews, updates, and adopts as necessary all library policies at least once every three years. When the board reviews library policies, the policies' effect on the library's relations with the public are evaluated; and

(c) The public must have easy access to written policies, procedures, and bylaws.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150C PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: PLANNING AND EVALUATION

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The board uses the Montana Public Library Annual Statistical Report to review the library's year-to-year progress and performance; and

(b) The library governing authority adopts emergency response plans that ensure the safety of the public and staff as the primary priority.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library has a written three- to five-year long-range plan, and reviews it annually. The long-range plan addresses services, facilities, public relations, technology, etc;

(b) The board evaluates the library's performance against the stated objectives in the long-range plan; and

(c) The library must have a vision statement.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) Community representatives, the board, and the director develop a long-range plan for the library; and

(b) At least every five years, the library conducts community studies and makes use of other needs assessment techniques to ensure community participation in the design and delivery of library service.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; [AMD](#), 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150D PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: FINANCE

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The board and the director follow fiscal procedures consistent with state law and local government requirements in preparing, presenting, and administering its budget;

(b) Local tax revenues provide at least 50 percent of the support for the library. Grants, donations, and other revenue sources supplement but do not supplant local tax support;

(c) The director works with the board to develop an annual financial plan or budget; and

(d) Every three years the board and the director review the adequacy of insurance coverage for the collection and building, and update the coverage as necessary.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library sets aside money in a depreciation fund to meet requirements for capital expenditures; and

(b) Local tax revenues provide at least 60 percent of the support for the library. Grants, donations, and other revenue sources supplement but do not supplant local tax support.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library has established a foundation or endowment;

(b) The foundation board and/or the library board develops a plan for planned giving;

(c) The foundation board and/or the library board establishes a policy regarding the acceptance of gifts of real and personal property, endowment funds, and planned giving;

(d) The library has a Friends of the Library organization; and

(e) Local tax revenues provide at least 70 percent of the support for the library. Grants, donations, and other revenue sources supplement but do not supplant local tax support.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; [AMD](#), 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150E HUMAN RESOURCES STANDARDS: LIBRARY DIRECTOR

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The board hires the director according to local, state, and federal regulations and delegates the day-to-day management of the library to the director;

(b) The board evaluates the performance of the director annually;

(c) Each public library has a paid director who is responsible for the administration of library services;

(d) Libraries that serve more than 25,000 people employ a library director with a graduate degree in library or information science or its equivalent; and

(e) All public library directors will be certified by the state library.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The director conducts a formal performance appraisal of each staff member at least annually;

(b) The library director informs the board of pending legislation that affects libraries on the local, state, and national levels;

(c) The library director reviews and updates procedures every three years; and

(d) The library director joins the State Library Association.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The director keeps the community and funding officials aware of the library's purpose, planning, and services through the use of newspaper articles, web sites, radio programs, attending meetings, etc;

(b) The director forms collaborative partnerships with other agencies and organizations in the library's service area;

(c) Libraries that serve less than 25,000 people employ a library director who has an AA/AS or higher degree;

(d) In addition to the library director's annual evaluation, the library director is evaluated every three years by the board with the input of staff, library users, and/or library nonusers; and

(e) The board pays for the library director to join the State Library Association.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; [AMD](#), 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150F HUMAN RESOURCES STANDARDS: GENERAL

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library board provides continuing education for the director and staff members by allocating funds to support continuing education costs, including travel expense and salary;

(b) Paid staff persons are present during 90 percent of all open hours;

(c) The board must adopt and review a personnel policy every three years;

(d) The library maintains written, up-to-date job descriptions; and

(e) All libraries must have internet access for staff.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) Volunteer programs have written policies, procedures, and job descriptions;

(b) Every staff member attends at least one continuing education eligible training program per year;

(c) Appropriate library staff have e-mail accounts available for communication and professional development;

(d) There is at least one personal computer for staff use only; and

(e) Staff receives in-house training or are encouraged to attend workshops.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) Regardless of population, total library staff is not less than one full-time employee;

(b) The library board encourages and supports staff involvement in community organizations and activities; and

(c) Employees have access to health insurance and retirement through the public library.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150G HUMAN RESOURCES STANDARDS: ACCESS

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The board and the director determine the days of the week and the hours during the day to be open to provide maximum service;

(b) The library is open during the week at least the following minimum hours. Many libraries exceed this minimum because the community, the board, and the director recognize that the number of hours of public service leads to greater use by the public. A library with more than one service outlet may use the total nonoverlapping hours of all outlets to meet the minimum requirement;

Population	Minimum	Desirable
less than 3,500	15	25-40
more than 3,500	30	40-50
more than 10,000	40	50-60
more than 25,000	50	60+

(c) Library users who wish to copy materials available from noncirculating items or from computer files must have access to a photocopy machine or printer;

(d) The library must have a telephone and answer telephone inquiries; and

(e) The library must provide access to resources and services for patrons with disabilities.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) Library customers are able to access library information from remote locations;

(b) When necessary, the library refers customers to other places to fulfill the customer's information needs; and

(c) Library has a web site where users can access electronic resources.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library provides appropriate access to library services for specialized populations, including, but not limited to, the homebound, the institutionalized, and non-English speaking populations.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; [NEW](#), 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; [AMD](#), 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150H MATERIALS AND COLLECTIONS STANDARDS: COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The board adopts a collection management policy that it reviews every three years.

The policy addresses the use of electronic resources;

(b) The board and the director develop an annual materials budget as part of the library budget;

(c) The library uses at least one professionally recognized review source; and

(d) The library provides access to federal, state, and local government documents that are appropriate to its community.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library cooperates with other community institutions to plan and implement access to electronic resources;

(b) The library provides access to materials for those with disabilities and others who may have special needs; and

(c) The library is on the collection management honor roll.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library cooperates with other local and regional libraries in collection development to provide a wide range of materials in a variety of formats to meet the needs of the community.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150I PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: ACCESS TO THE COLLECTION

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

- (a) Materials are purchased to ensure a steady flow of materials for the public;
- (b) The library catalogs and organizes its collection according to standard cataloging and classification systems and procedures. Automated records comply with the machine-readable catalog (MARC) format; and
- (c) The library offers interlibrary loan and follows the Montana state interlibrary loan protocols.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

- (a) The library uses an online interlibrary loan system; and
- (b) The library has an automated system for circulation, cataloging, and public access catalogs that has reporting features and supports MARC records.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

- (a) The library collection is available online; and
- (b) The library, if appropriate, has joined a shared integrated library system, also known as a shared catalog.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150J PUBLIC LIBRARY STANDARDS: COLLECTION EVALUATION

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library's collection is continually evaluated for additions and deletions based on the library's collection management policy.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library monitors the use of the collection through analyzing statistical information, including circulation per capita and the collection's turnover rate.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150K PUBLIC LIBRARY FACILITIES STANDARDS

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The board and the director evaluate the library building every three years to determine adequate space needs;

(b) The board and the director identify and attempt to address any identified facility shortcomings in a building plan;

(c) The library facility is safe for the public and staff; and

(d) The library's facilities conform to local requirements for accessibility.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library has an exterior sign visible from the nearest roadway that identifies it as the library;

(b) The library has a public meeting area available; and

(c) The library facility is evaluated for accessibility.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library has adequate, well-lit parking; and

(b) The library's facilities conform to federal requirements for accessibility.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150L PUBLIC LIBRARY PUBLIC RELATIONS STANDARDS

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library cooperates in state, regional, and national efforts to promote library services; and

(b) The library uses basic PR/marketing tools such as brochures, flyers, bookmarks, newspaper, radio, TV, public service outlets, web sites, story times, displays, and programs in the library.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library targets special groups within the community for programs or services (seniors, ethnic populations, etc.);

(b) Funds are budgeted for publicity either by the library and/or the Friends of the Library; and

(c) Staff and board are encouraged to bring the library's message to the community at appropriate venues.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library allocates funds for public relations, has a community awareness program, and actively promotes its mission;

(b) The library conducts a community assessment to evaluate the library's marketing efforts;

(c) The library establishes or works with existing community advisory groups to encourage community involvement and improve service. Examples of such groups include youth, seniors, genealogy, local history, and other identified segments of the population;

(d) The library has a Friends of the Library organization; and

(e) The library maintains an up-to-date web site.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1150M PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICES STANDARDS

(1) General essential standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) Every two years the library gathers feedback on library services from library users and nonusers. The library can use a variety of methods, including but not limited to, surveys, focus groups, and community meetings;

(b) The library uses comparative statistics, annual surveys, or other methods to evaluate the services offered;

(c) The library offers programming for children and adults;

(d) The library has policies and/or procedures for services provided;

(e) The library programming is free and open to all;

(f) The library must make every effort to maintain confidentiality of library records as addressed in [22-1-1103](#), MCA; and

(g) Core library services as defined by the local community and library are provided all hours the library is open. Examples include lending circulating materials, reference, and interlibrary loan.

(2) General enhanced standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library provides information about the community to customers;

(b) The library offers programming for children, adults, and young adults; and

(c) The library offers or makes patrons aware of virtual reference services.

(3) General excellent standards for public libraries are as follows:

(a) The library collaborates with other community organizations and educational institutions to promote library services;

(b) The library provides library outreach services;

(c) The library has a Friends of the Library organization; and

(d) The library has wireless internet access for patrons.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; IMP, [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; NEW, 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06; AMD, 2010 MAR p. 1500, Eff. 6/25/10.

10.102.1151 CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

(1) The Montana State Library will send a certification statement to public libraries each fiscal year.

(a) This statement will provide for a status report regarding each essential standard and will require the signature of the library director and the library board chair.

(b) The signed and dated certification statement will be returned to the state library by July 25th of each year.

History: [22-1-103](#), MCA; [IMP](#), [22-1-103](#), [22-1-326](#), [22-1-327](#), [22-1-328](#), [22-1-329](#), [22-1-330](#), [22-1-331](#), MCA; [AMD](#), 2006 MAR p. 1571, Eff. 6/23/06.