



MEMO

To: 2023 Public Library Standards Task Force Members
From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting Librarian and Cara Orban, Consortia Director
Subject: Changes to library budget standard
Date: August 14, 2023

Currently Admin Rule 10.102.1158 (7) states “The library budget shows year-to-year growth reflecting community needs. The director and library board routinely present the library to the community and local government in a manner to maintain and increase the library's ability to meet their community's needs.”

The previous task force wanted to encourage library boards and directors to be advocates for their libraries. They wanted boards and directors to develop relationships with community and local government leaders. They also wanted boards and directors to consider what financial resources the library needed to provide services and to ask for the resources needed.

The final language of the existing standard focused more on increasing the budget than on the spirit of advocacy and seeking the resources the library needs. MSL staff have fielded questions from librarians about this standard and recommend re-writing it to better reflect the spirit of the original task force.

Possible wording for the new standard

- The library board and director identify the financial resources needed to provide library services and communicate with community and local government leaders about financial needs.

What do task force members think about changing this standard? Do you like changing the language? Would you prefer to keep it in its current format? Why or why not? What other suggestions do you have?