



MEMO

To: 2023 Public Library Standards Task Force Members
From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting Librarian and Cara Orban, Consortia Director
Subject: Update formula to include possible payments to tribal college libraries
Date: August 15, 2023

Administrative Rule 10.102.4003 defines how state aid per capita per square mile is distributed to eligible public libraries. This formula has been reviewed multiple times by previous task forces. Although complicated it has revealed itself to be a fair way of calculating population in places where there are multiple independent libraries.

MSL staff are seeking input on how to calculate the numbers for tribal college libraries. Should we use student population? Should we use reservation population since they serve the public as well as students? Should we use school district populations? Or should we use a different metric and what would that be?

We calculated what the funding amounts and service populations would be for the examples above and are sharing the impacts of using reservation population, school population, and school district population for the tribal college libraries and the other libraries in those counties.

The other question we need to consider is what to do if the tribal college libraries in a particular county do not apply. Compliance with the public library standards is voluntary and may not be the right option for every accredited tribal college library in Montana. Of the 7 accredited libraries only 4 have expressed interest in the program.

MSL staff recommend adding language to 10.102.4003 that says something to the effect of if no accredited tribal college libraries in that county apply for state aid their funding will be distributed to the other public libraries in that county. Is this acceptable to the task force? What other ideas do you have?