



MEMO

To: Committee reviewing state aid formula
From: Tracy Cook, Lead Consulting Librarian
Subject: Update ARM to handle situation where tribal college library doesn't apply
Date: December 13, 2023

Administrative Rule (ARM) 10.102.4003 defines how state aid per capita per square mile is distributed to eligible libraries. We will be discussing the formula itself. We also need to consider what to do if a particular tribal college library does 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. The funds cannot be held for tribal libraries to apply in the future. They are only available for the fiscal year.

MSL staff recommend adding language to 10.102.4003 that addresses this possibility. Is this acceptable to the task force? What other ideas do you have?

Here is some possible language we could add to the ARM:

Possible language if committee chooses to distribute population by county - "if no accredited tribal college libraries in the county apply for state aid their funding will be distributed to the other public libraries using the formula outlined in ARM"

Possible language if committee chooses to apply formula to tribal college libraries and subtract those numbers before calculating state aid for all public libraries in Montana - "Tribal enrollment numbers provided to the Governor's Office of Budget and Program Planning will be used to calculate the state aid allocations for accredited tribal college libraries that meet the eligibility requirements defined in the Administrative Rules of Montana. The amount awarded to eligible accredited tribal college libraries will be subtracted from the total amount of state aid per capita. The remaining amount will be distributed annually based on the following [existing ARM formula 2a – bviii will be used]."