

ILF Advocacy Update

Legislative Fall Forum

Over seventy members gathered on October 5 to shape the Legislative Agenda for 2016-2017. Each year, ILF members gather to discuss important issues to Indiana's libraries. The 2017 session of the Indiana General Assembly includes the writing of the State's two-year budget. The new year will also bring many new policymakers to the Statehouse, as Hoosiers will elect a new governor, new lieutenant governor, new attorney general, at least eighteen new legislators and potentially a new superintendent of public instruction.

Legislative Committee co-chairs Bill Wiebenga and Jos Holman and executive director Lucinda Nord laid the foundation for how and why we work in advocacy. Edra Waterman presented findings from a subcommittee on changes to Local Income Tax, upon which 214 of 237 public libraries rely for some level of funding. Contracted advocates Carolyn Elliott and Matt Long shared the outlook for 2017 with upcoming elections. Courtney Schaafsma of the IN Department of Local Government and Finance (DLGF) outlined a number of report features and answered questions. Indiana Representative Sharon Negele (R, HD 13) shared her personal story and her priority for increasing broadband access in the next session. She outlined the state budget development process.



Jos Holman



Scott Tracey, Bill Wiebenga, and David Peter

During the afternoon, attendees were engaged in an interactive session to identify consensus areas around principles, priorities and strategies for 2017. Two of the highest priorities will likely include support for INSPIRE and Connectivity in the budget and support for school libraries in the State's implementation of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A detailed priority agenda will be released soon. ILF members will work to develop and strengthen relationships with current and new policymakers.

Update on ESSA



Michelle Houser

Many ILF members have advocated for inclusion of effective school library programs in the state's plan to implement the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Indiana Department of Education continues [input sessions through Oct. 12](#) and intends to release the draft plan by January.

ILF hosted a workshop where the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) presented a workshop to 15 school librarians on Sept. 24. Districts may be able to use grant funds to support students through school libraries and technology and to utilize the school librarian to provide cost-effective professional development and technology integration for fellow teachers throughout the district.

[AASL](#) provided their recommended talking points. School librarians...

- and effective school library programs impact student achievement, digital literacy skills and school climate/culture (Title 1).
- share their learning with other professionals when they attend conferences and work shops, applying the benefits of new techniques, strategies and technologies to the entire district (Title II, Part A).
- are uniquely suited to lead the effort in applying for competitive grants because of their expertise and access to strong professional learning networks (Title II, Part B, Subpart 1).
- increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology, allowing equitable resources for all students (Title IV, Part A).

Watch the ILF website for regular updates and materials. ILF is working on materials that may be shared with parents, students and other champions for libraries.



Ben Davis 9th graders