

New York State Law/Public Library Standards/ Library Bill of Rights

LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS

The American Library Association affirms that all libraries are forums for information and ideas, and that the following basic policies should guide their services.

- I.** Books and other library resources should be provided for the interest, information, and enlightenment of all people of the community the library serves. Materials should not be excluded because of the origin, background, or views of those contributing to their creation.
- II.** Libraries should provide materials and information presenting all points of view on current and historical issues. Materials should not be proscribed or removed because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval.
- III.** Libraries should challenge censorship in the fulfillment of their responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
- IV.** Libraries should cooperate with all persons and groups concerned with resisting abridgment of free expression and free access to ideas.
- V.** A person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views.
- VI.** Libraries which make exhibit spaces and meeting rooms available to the public they serve should make such facilities available on an equitable basis, regardless of the beliefs or affiliations of individuals or groups requesting their use.

Adopted June 19, 1939. Amended October 14, 1944; June 18, 1948; February 2, 1961; June 27, 1967; and January 23, 1980; inclusion of "age" reaffirmed January 23, 1996, by the ALA Council.

Minimum Standards as of January 1, 2021

A public, free association or Indian library seeking to register with the department on or after January 1, 2021 shall be registered with the department if it meets the registration standards set forth in this subdivision in a manner satisfactory to the commissioner. Any public, free association or Indian library that was registered by the department on or before December 31, 2020, shall meet the following registration requirements by January 1, 2021 to continue to be registered by the department:

1. is governed by written bylaws which define the structure and governing functions of the library board of trustees, and which shall be reviewed and re-approved by the board of trustees at least once every five years or earlier if required by law;
2. has a community-based, board-approved, written long-range plan of service developed by the library board of trustees and staff;
3. provides a board-approved written annual report to the community on the library's progress in meeting its mission, goals and objectives, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service;
4. has board-approved written policies for the operation of the library, which shall be reviewed and updated at least once every five years or earlier if required by law;
5. annually prepares and publishes a board-approved, written budget, which enables the library to address the community's needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service;
6. periodically evaluates the effectiveness of the library's programs, services and collections to address community needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service;
7. is open the [following scheduled hours](#): (see below)
8. maintains a facility that addresses community needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service, including adequate space, lighting, shelving, seating, power and data infrastructure, and a public restroom;
9. provides programming to address community needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service;
10. provides a circulation system that facilitates access to the local library collection and other library catalogs; and provides equipment, technology, and internet connectivity to address community needs and facilitate access to information;
11. provides access to current library information in print and online, facilitating the understanding of library services, operations and governance; information provided online shall include the standards referenced in paragraphs (1) through (5) of this subdivision;
12. employs a paid director in accordance with the provisions of section 90.8 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education; ([see chart below](#))
13. provides library staff with annual technology training, appropriate to their position, to address community needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service; and

14. establishes and maintains partnerships with other educational, cultural or community organizations which enable the library to address the community's needs, as outlined in the library's long-range plan of service.

Charts

Scheduled Hours

First column lists population ranges, and the second column lists corresponding minimum weekly hours.

Population	Minimum Weekly Hours Open
Up to 500	12
500 - 2,499	20
2,500 - 4,999	25
5,000 - 14,999	35
15,000 - 24,999	40
25,000 - 99,999	55
100,000 and above	60

Minimum Education Requirements

The first column lists population ranges. The second column lists requirements for members of public library system. The third column lists requirements for non-PLS members,

More information can be found: [Helpful Information for Meeting Minimum Public Library Standards; 2018 Edition: Library Development: New York State Library \(nysed.gov\)](#)

Scio is currently populated at 2,330 this is reported in the Annual Report given to the New York State Education Department.