

**Regular Meeting
Dr. Grace O. Doane Alden Public Library
Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 11:30**

Electronic meeting option is available for board members by contacting the Director at
lisa@alden.lib.ia.us for link

Call Meeting to Order

Minutes

Librarian's Report

Approve Bills

New Business:

Review and approve budget amendment for FY2026 regarding the Carnegie donation

Old Business:

Budget Planning – discussion, changes, and approval of FY2027 budget

Rentals:

Review monthly rentals and sign return deposit checks

Board Education – State funds

Public Comment

Adjourn

Tentative Date for Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11th, 2026 at 11:30 at the Alden Library

State Funds

Public libraries receive state funding through the **Enrich Iowa Program**, which includes **Direct State Aid**, **Open Access** and **Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement**. The funding for Enrich Iowa is appropriated by the Iowa Legislature and approved by the Governor before being distributed to participating libraries by the State Library.

- **Direct State Aid** is distributed to public libraries based on meeting the standards prescribed in the **Public Library Standards**.
- **Open Access** is a reciprocal borrowing program which enables library customers from a participating library to check out materials, in person, free of charge. Libraries participating in Open Access are subsidized for each item loaned to a nonresident user. Open Access funding supplements, not replaces, local funding.
- **Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement** is a program intended to provide Iowans equal access to library resources by encouraging and supporting resource sharing among different types of libraries. The program pays a subsidy for each item loaned to eligible Iowa libraries. Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement funding supplements, not replaces, local funding.

The State Library of Iowa administers the **Standards and Accreditation Program** for Iowa public libraries. This is a voluntary program intended to encourage the ongoing development of quality public library service in Iowa. ***In Service to Iowa: Public Library Standards*** is the manual for the program and can be found on the State Library website.

The Standards program is designed to provide libraries with a tool to identify strengths and areas for improvement. It is also used to document the condition of public library service in Iowa, as the guideline for determining **Direct State Aid** funding (money awarded to public libraries for meeting standards) and to ensure that the State Library meets statutory requirements.

How Standards Work

Direct State Aid funding through the **Enrich Iowa Program** is awarded to any library reaching Tier 1 status or higher. Achievement of standards falls into three distinct Tier Levels: Tiers 1, 2, 3, with Tier 3 being full library accreditation. Currently there are 85 standards within categories such as Library Governance, Library Management, Library Personnel, Library Collections, and more. The funding awarded is based on the Tier level achieved.

Every three years, participating libraries are asked to report on progress toward meeting standards and/or achieving accreditation by completing an application. Providing supporting documentation is also required to accompany the application. Eligibility is based on **Iowa Code 8A.209(4)** and **Iowa Administrative Code 286-3.2(2)**.

To be an eligible participant, a library must:

- Be established as a municipal library by city ordinance or as a county library at least two years previous in accordance with **Iowa Code 336**. A copy of the ordinance must be on file at the State Library.
- Use **Direct State Aid** funds to improve library services
- Use **Direct State Aid** fund to supplement, not supplant, any other funding received by the library
- Participate in the **Open Access** and **Interlibrary Loan Reimbursement** programs
- Submit a completed **Annual Survey** for the most current fiscal year
- Submit a completed **Direct State Aid** report for the most current fiscal year
- Have a current accreditation application on file and meet the following standards:
 - **Tier 1:** To reach Tier 1 status the library must meet all 29 required Tier 1 standards.
 - **Tier 2:** To reach Tier 2 status the library must meet all 29 required Tier 1 standards **plus** an additional 12 standards required at Tier 2.
 - **Tier 3:** (The highest achievement level in the **Accreditation** program.) To reach Tier 3 status the library must meet all standards marked as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 at the “minimum required to meet standard” **and** meet 20 of the remaining 38 optional standards.
 - **Note:** A library unable to meet all Tier 1 requirements will be considered **Tier 0** and is ineligible for **Direct State Aid** funding, regardless of how many Tier 2 or Tier 3 standards are met.

If your library participates in the **Standards and Accreditation** program, all trustees should be familiar with the manual and be aware of the standards that impact the work of the board. The category “Library Governance” in the Standards specifically applies to standards regarding library boards. Note that many board-related standards are required at a Tier 1 level, which underscores the vital role of library boards in the success of the library. The category on “Library Management” covers director duties but also includes information that affects trustees.