

2027 MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION PROPOSED BILLS AND PRIORITIES

Last edited 10/14/2026



EBOOKS

Legislative Request: Seeking legislative changes to ensure equitable terms and fair pricing for library eBooks through public contracts.

SCHOOL LIBRARY STAFFING

Legislative Request: Require schools to employ minimum ratios of licensed library media specialists and support staff, mandates district-level library program oversight for large districts, and prohibits clerical staff from substituting for licensed specialists.

MINITEX

Legislative Request: Increases annual funding by \$1 million each in the OHE and MDE budgets for maintaining and expanding Minitex services, including cooperative collection development and shared online resources for Minnesota libraries.

LEGACY

Legislative Request: Appropriation of \$3M/annual in Arts & Cultural Heritage Funds for the regional public library systems.



#MNLibrariesLead



Serving Benton, Morrison, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd, & Wright Counties

1300 West St. Germain • St. Cloud, MN 56301 • 320-650-2500 • www.griver.org

October 20, 2026

Dear Trustee,

The library is all about reading, and our local children need our help learning to read. **In 2027, we will strengthen our early literacy program, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. Together, let's reach more young children, build early reading skills, and develop a love of reading!**

This is important work that we need to do now. Minnesota created the Reading to Ensure Academic Development (READ) Act to help our children read at or above grade level. Building on that effort, core literacy programming is a focus in Great River Regional Library's Strategic Plan.

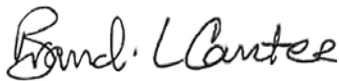
The St. Cloud Public School District's Minnesota READ Act Literacy Plan states, "Data from spring of 2026 shows that 34% of kindergarten students scored at or above grade level in Early Reading." This means 66% of kindergarteners are below reading level and need additional support.

Our 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is already helping our young readers! This year, 324 children are participating in person and 328 children are participating online with the Beanstack app. Yet, many young children still need to be reached. By partnering with our schools, providing more resources for our families, and encouraging reading with our babies, toddlers, and preschoolers, we will see our local children thrive.

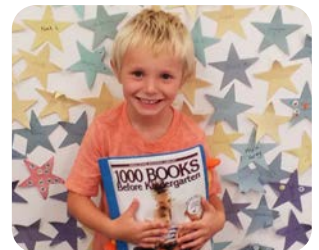
One parent shared, "The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program was a favorite for our family! It was a great way to introduce the importance of reading to the kiddos by making it fun and exciting. You could see the sense of accomplishment in their eyes when they brought in their completed books and, the best part for them, got to pick out the stuffed animal and book. I recommend this program to others as it is a perfect way to spend time with their little ones, instilling in them a love for reading and feeding their imaginations."

As a leader of the library system as a Board of Trustee, we ask you to consider your board commitment and investment in this effort. Please support the library with a tax-deductible gift to help local children develop a love for reading that builds school success.

Sincerely,



Brandi Canter
Executive Director



Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Yes, I will support the library with a gift!

☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$25 Other \$ _____

☐ Please do NOT mail a thank you letter for this gift.

☐ Remain anonymous? ☐ Contact about a planned gift.



Please return this form and your donation (*Payable to GRRL*) in the enclosed addressed envelope. **Prefer to donate online?** Visit us at griver.org/support-the-library or scan the code!

Information you provide here is protected under Minnesota Data Practices Statutes. Providing this information is strictly voluntary and will be used for GRRL financial accounting and to support GRRL fund development activities. It will be available only to authorized library personnel and contracted vendors. Name, address and amount of gift is considered public information. The personal information collected must be released pursuant to a court order or request by MN state or legislative auditor.

On behalf of library users ... Thank you! Office use only: Rec'd _____ Amt _____ Ck # _____ Init _____

Non-Cash Giving Options

Apart from direct gifts, charitable giving comes in many different forms and offers a variety of benefits. You may choose to give using one of these options:

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your IRA

If you are 73 or older, you can gift a QCD using your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, potentially lowering your taxable income.

Donor-advised Fund (DAF) Contribution

Make a grant recommendation through your DAF account by notifying your DAF’s charitable sponsor to distribute funds directly to Great River Regional Library.

Legacy Gift

With the help of an attorney, you may include a bequest for the library within your will.

Your planned gift will allow future readers to enjoy their public library for years to come.

Great River Regional Library system serves six counties with 33 library locations in Central Minnesota.

Map showing the six counties served by the Great River Regional Library system: Todd, Morrison, Benton, Stearns, Sherburne, and Wright. The map highlights 33 library locations marked with yellow stars.

Your support can help our library with:



Collection
Development

Expand our collection of books to reflect community interests and needs.



Events and
Programs

Provide free programs to support community members in lifelong learning.



Technology and
Equipment

Increase school and workforce readiness through online services and resources.

1-833-GET-GRRL • griver.org/support-the-library

Great River Regional Library
Attn: Accounting Dept.
1300 W. St. Germain St.
St. Cloud, MN 56301



Let us celebrate your birthday with you!

_____/_____/_____
MM / DD / YYYY