



Minnesota Libraries 2025

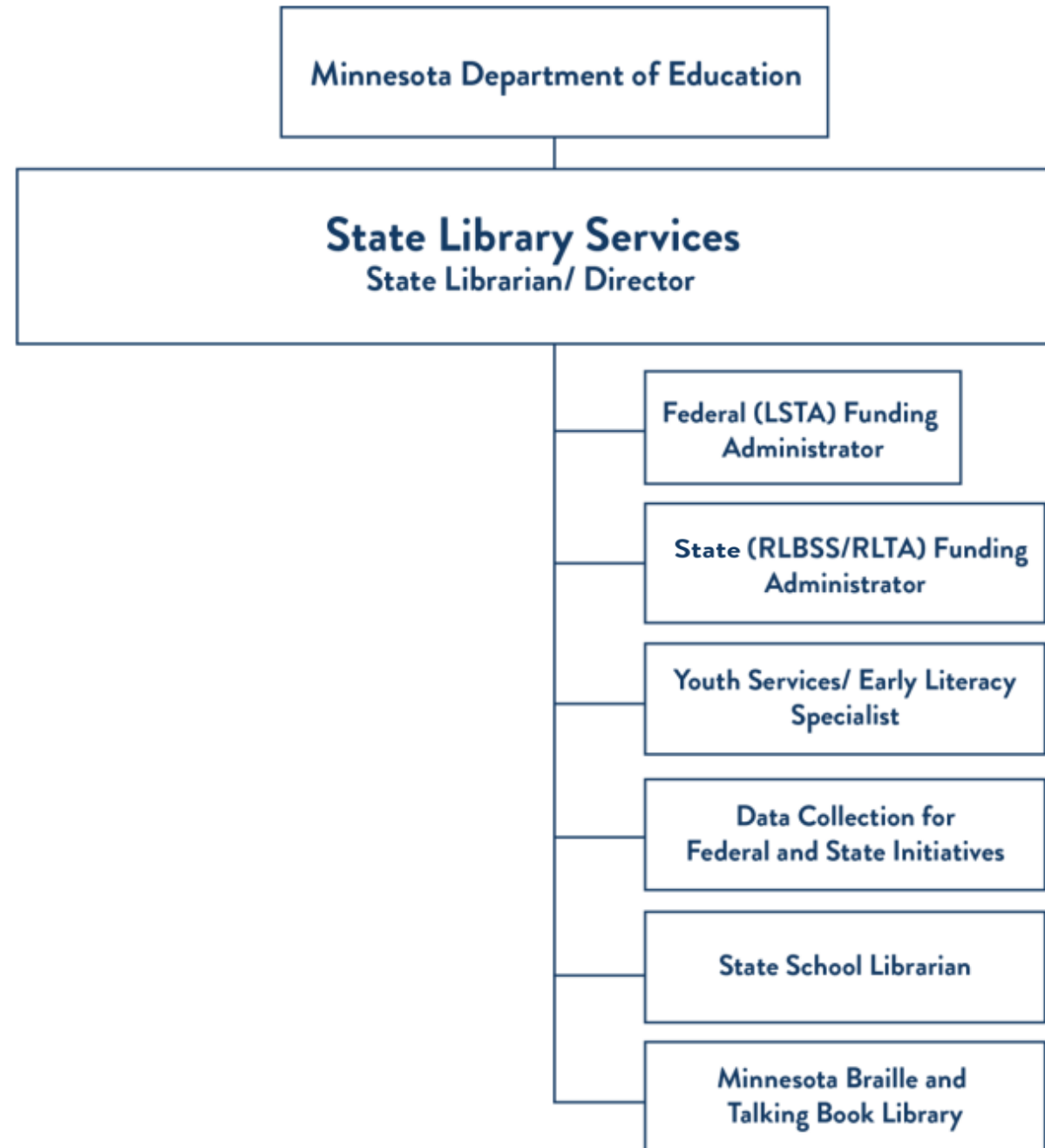
Tamara Lee | Director of State Library Services and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Ten Minnesota Commitments to Equity

1. **Prioritize equity.**
2. Start from within.
3. **Measure what matters.**
4. Go local.
5. Follow the money.
6. Start early.
7. Monitor implementation of standards.
8. **Value people.**
9. Improve conditions for learning.
10. **Give students options.**



What is State Library Services?



State Library Services Responsibilities



Provide advice and instruction



Administer state aid, state grants, and federal aid to libraries



Coordinate learning and networking opportunities for library staff



Collect data on public library usage



Manage the MN Braille & Talking Book Library

Types of Libraries

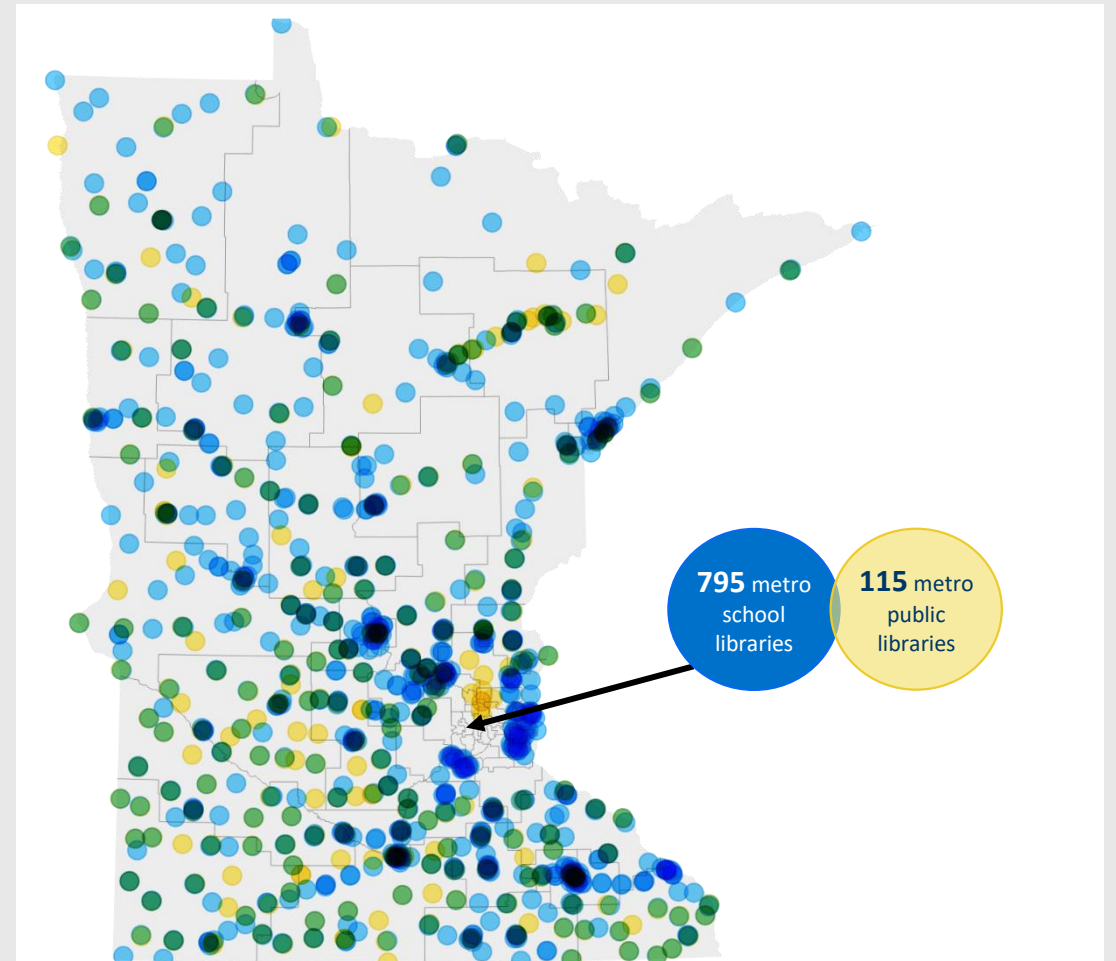
Many types of libraries in Minnesota

The map shows:

- 359 public libraries, 12 regional public library systems, and 8 bookmobiles
- Libraries in 1,500 schools

There are also:

- 7 multi-county multitype library systems
- 90 academic libraries
- 140 special libraries
- 4 Tribal libraries

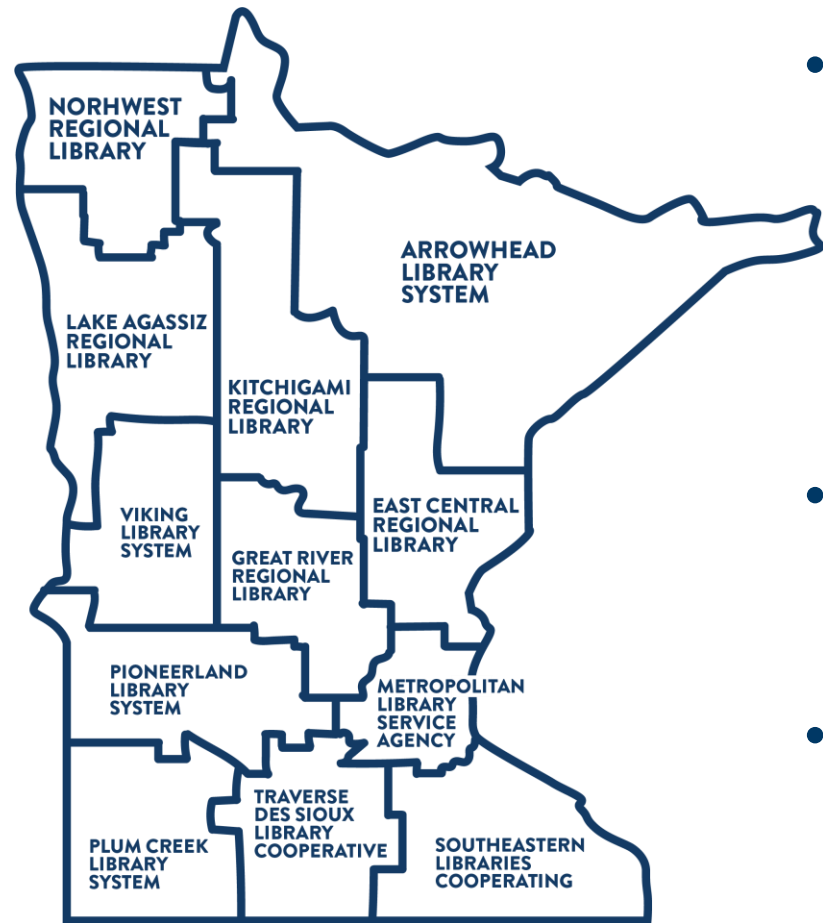


Source: MDE-ORG, 2023-24 School Library Status Reports • Created with Datawrapper

State Aid and Grant Programs

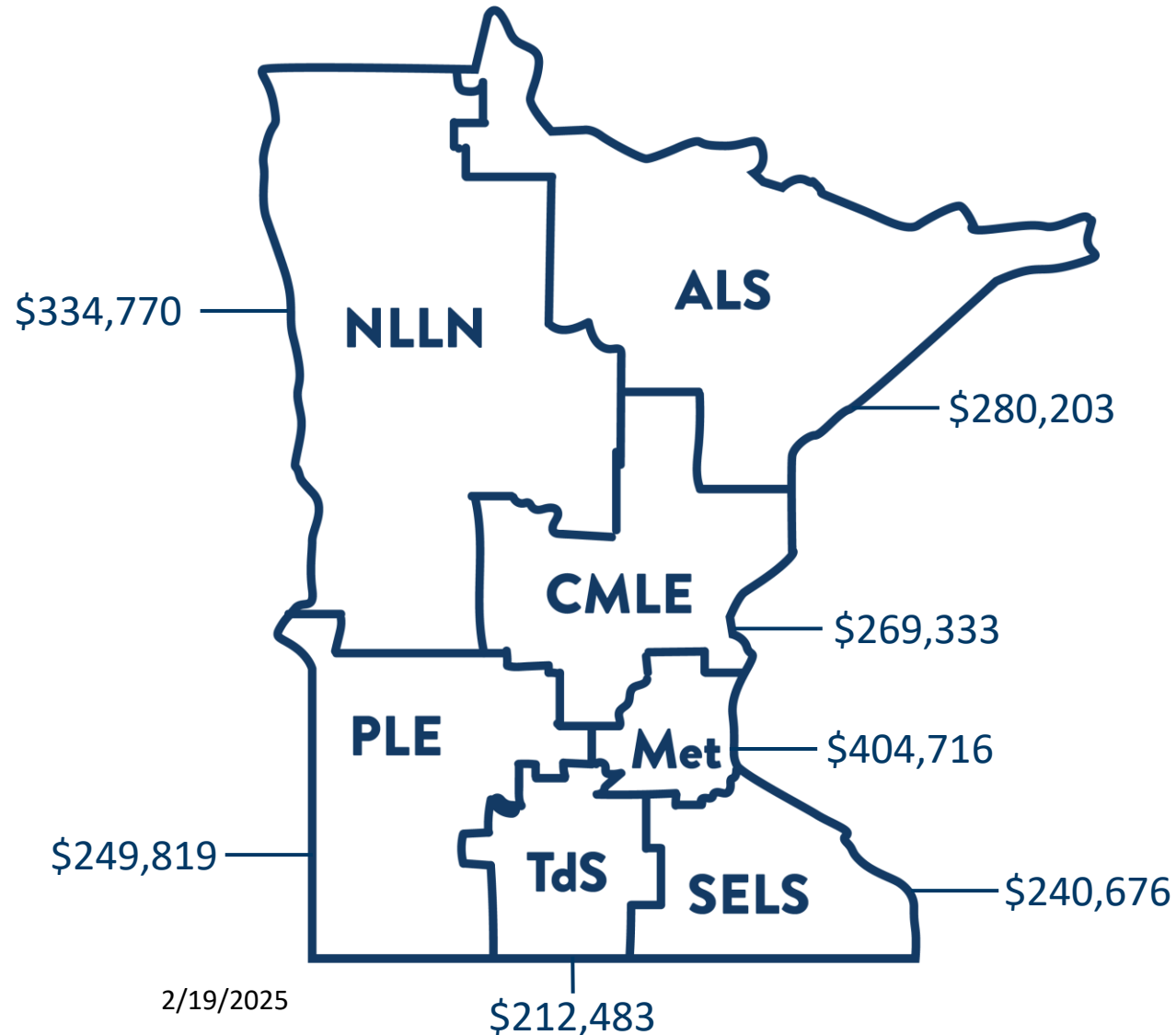
Program	FY24 Amount	FY25 Amount	Recipients	Purpose
Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS)	\$18.01M	\$17.52M	Regional systems	Basic operations at 12 regional library systems
Regional Library Telecom Aid (RLTA)	\$2.3M	\$2.3M	Regional systems	Internet service, tech equipment, and digital resources at 12 regional library systems and public library locations
Multicounty Multitype Operating Aid	\$2.07M	\$1.9M	Multitype systems	Basic operations at 7 multitype library systems
Legacy Grants	\$2.75M	\$2.75M	Regional systems	Arts and cultural heritage programming at public library locations
Construction Grants	\$4M	0	Local gov. units	Construction and renovation costs
School Library Aid	\$42M	0	Eligible school districts and charter schools	Support school libraries
One-Time Multitype Appropriation	\$1M	0	Multitype systems	Increase number of licensed school media specialists

Regional Public Library Systems



- 12 regional public library systems
 - Consolidated: centralized administration with branch libraries
 - Federated: independent member libraries
- Approx. annual funding of \$17.5M through Regional Library Basic System Support
- Additional annual \$2.3M Regional Library Telecomm Aid, supplementing federal E-Rate program

State Funding for MN Multitype Library Cooperative Systems



- 7 multi-type systems
 - 3 merged with regional systems
 - 4 not merged
- Members
 - School libraries
 - Public libraries
 - Academic libraries
 - Special libraries
- Receive \$1,992,000 in annual funding from Minn. Stat. 134.354

Library Construction Grants



Total appropriations of \$1M to \$2.951M typically during bonding years, historic appropriation of \$4M during FY24

- Program began in 1994
- Funded 15 times through 2023
- Over \$20M in total appropriations over program lifetime
- Competitive, peer-reviewed grant process
- Awards of up to \$1,000,000 for improvement projects
- Awards of up to \$450,000 for accessibility projects (up from \$300,000 in FY21)
- Minimum local match of 50% required
- \$187M in library infrastructure need

Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

- Annual appropriation distributed to 12 regional library systems
 - [Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, chapter 4, article 4, section 2, subdivision 5](#)
- Fiscal Year 2024 = \$2.75 Million



Bao Phi, Author Tour
Houston Elementary School



Painting, Stewartville
Public Library



Mobile Sign Making
Fergus Falls Public Library

State Library Services LSTA (Federal Funding)

The Grants to States Program

- Largest source of federal funding for library services in the United States
- Use funds to support statewide initiatives and services & distribute funds through competitive subawards to libraries

Minitex Services

- Received \$1.3 million in 2022 for statewide resource sharing, including interlibrary loan (ILL)
- 135,223 direct ILL requests from libraries; 343,770 items circulated

Current Subaward Projects

- Aprendamos Juntos: Let's Learn Together at Hennepin County Library
- Preserving Huskies: St. Cloud State University Library Digital Scholarship Lab

Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library (MBTBL)

- MBTBL is a regional library in the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Impaired program(NLS), which is part of the Library of Congress, that distributes braille, audio, large print and other materials from a local and national collection
- Services for kids to seniors with visual, physical and reading disabilities
- Mails material at no cost through the U.S. Mail
- Audio and braille materials are also available through [BARD](#) allowing patrons to download books and magazines 24/7



Minnesota Libraries



2/19/2025

Thank you!

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