



State Library Services Overview

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.



Minnesota Libraries



Minnesota "Library Land"

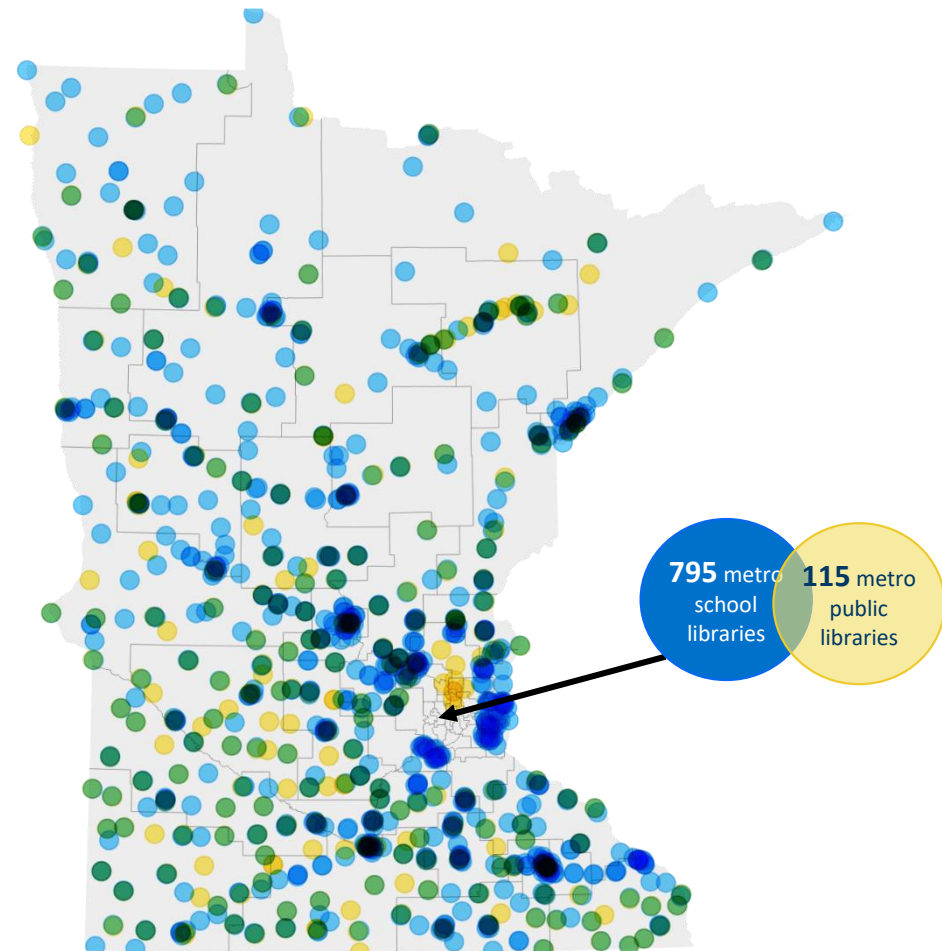
Many types of libraries in Minnesota

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

What's Happening in Minnesota Libraries?

- Public library open hours are back to pre-pandemic levels
- In 2022, people made:
 - 16.88 million visits to Disneyland
 - 14.9 million visits to the Smithsonian museums
 - **13.5 million visits to Minnesota public libraries**
 - 11.9 million visits to Minnesota state parks and trails
 - 4.3 million visits to Minnesota professional sports home games (Vikings, Wild, Twins, Timberwolves, Lynx, United FC)
- Over 60% of library locations have space for public meetings
- Libraries hosted 104,469 public events in 2022

Minnesota's Libraries

- **Over 3 million Minnesotans – 56% of the state's population – had public library cards in 2022.**
- In 2021, Minnesota had the eighth highest cardholders and checkouts per capita.
- People borrowed or downloaded **53 million** library items in 2022.

What is Minnesota State Library Services?

State Library Administrative Agency

Division of the Minnesota Department of Education

State Librarian/Director of State Library Services

Federal (LSTA) funding
administrator

State (RLBSS/RLTA)
funding administrator

Youth Services/Early
Literacy Specialist

Data Collection for
federal and state
initiatives

Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library

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

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

Advice and Instruction



State Library Services is accessible to all Minnesotans. We are always happy to share our resources and expertise. Contact us at: mde.lst@state.mn.us.

State Library Services Responsibilities

Provide advice and instruction



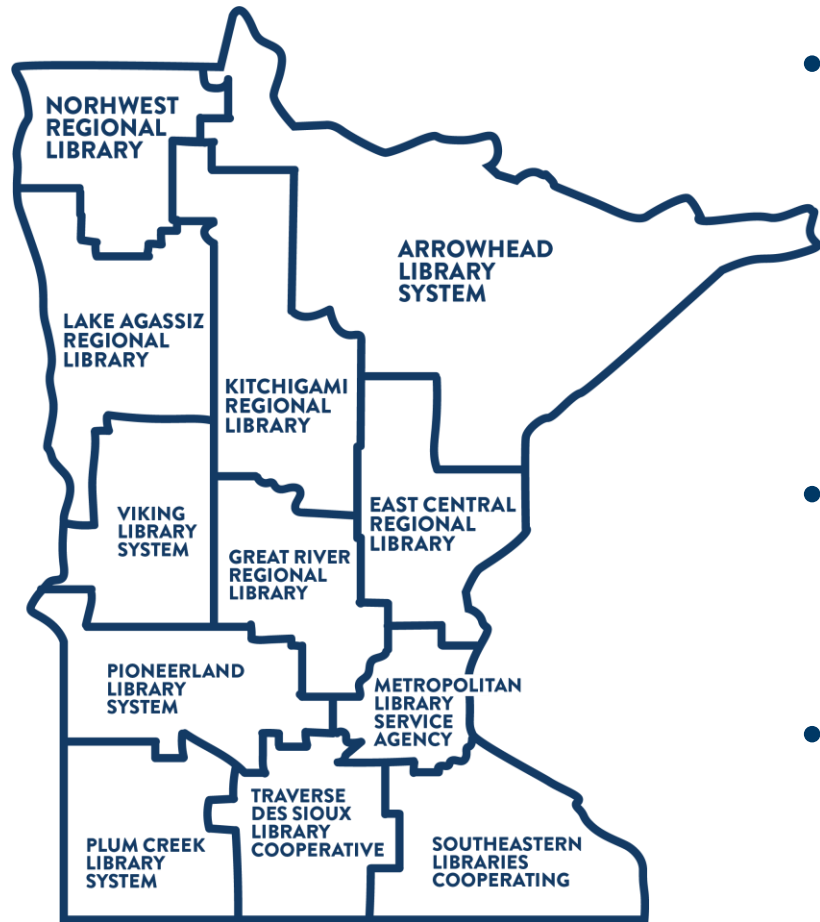
**Administer state aid, state grants,
and federal aid**

Coordinate learning and networking opportunities
for library staff

Collect data on public library usage

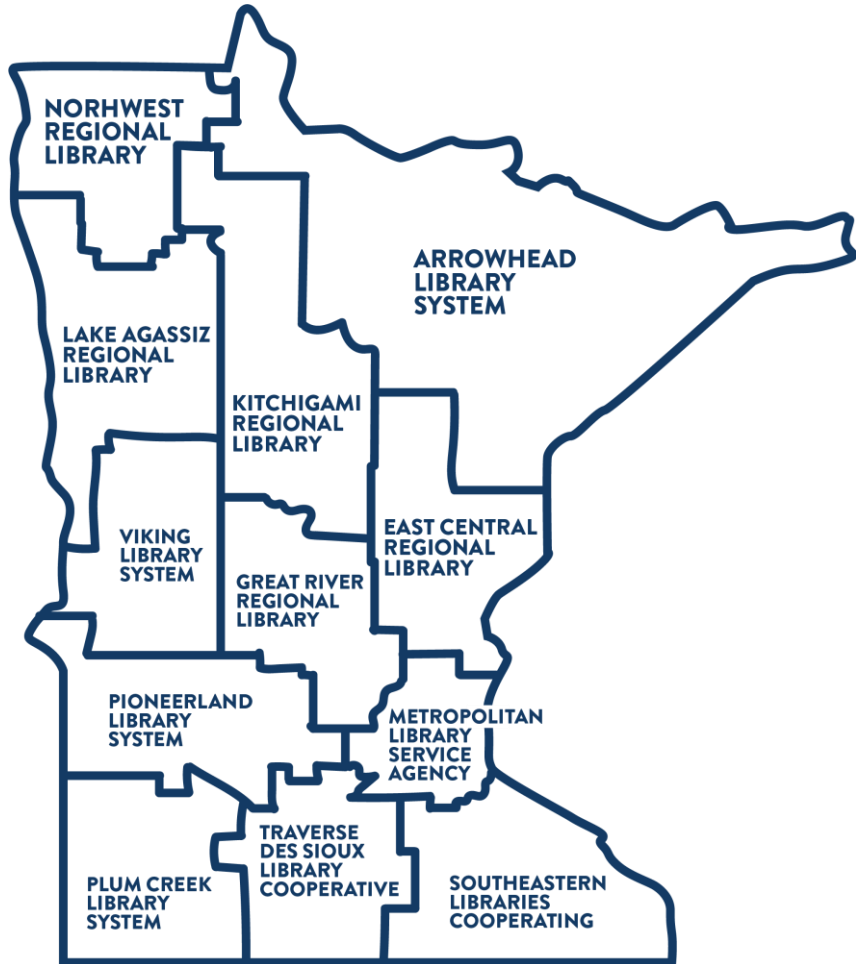
Manage the MN Braille & Talking Book Library

Regional Public Library Systems



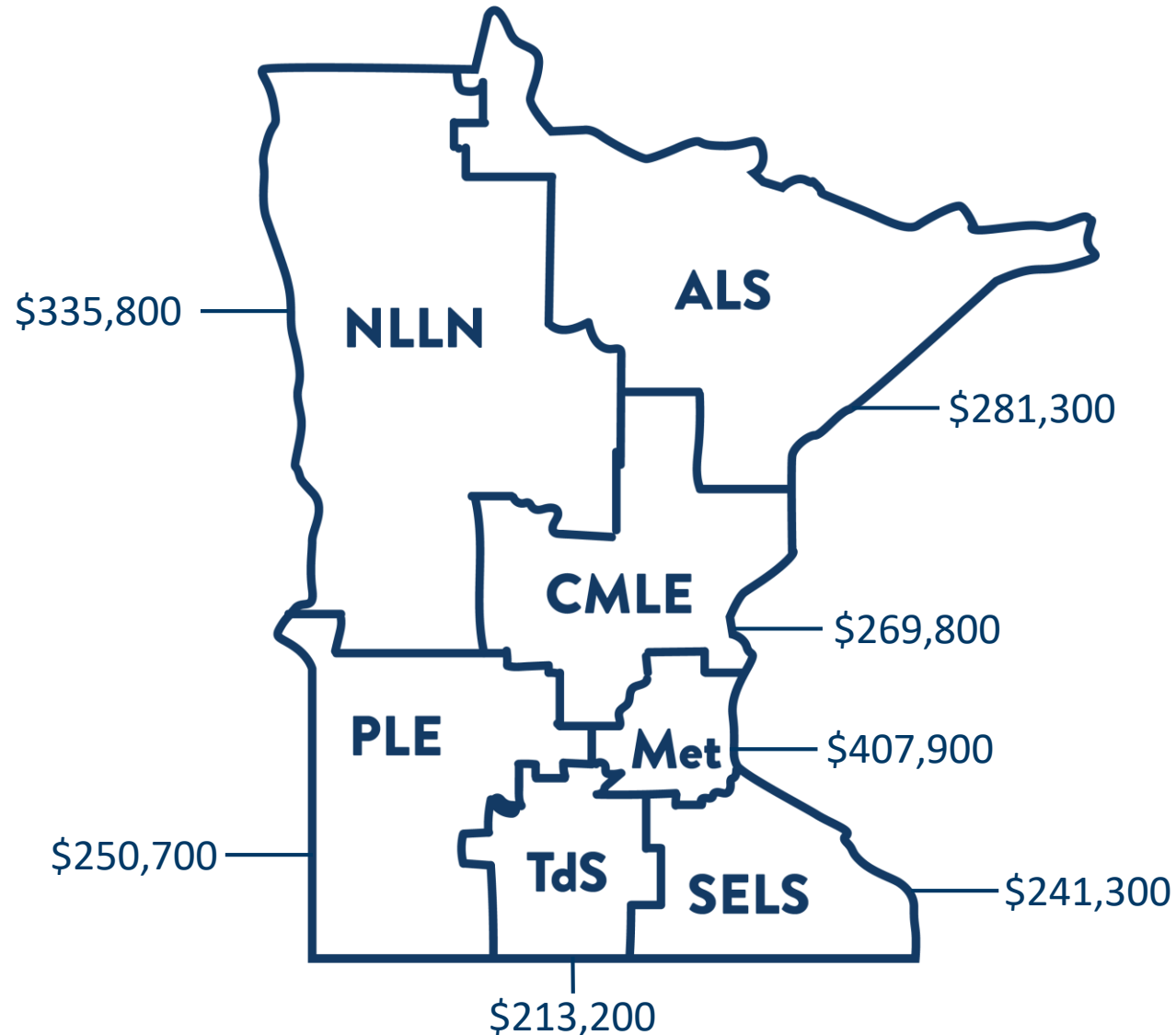
- 12 regional public library systems
 - Consolidated: centralized administration with branch libraries
 - Federated: independent member libraries
- Annual funding of \$17.57M through Regional Library Basic System Support
- Additional annual \$2.3M Regional Library Telecomm Aid, supplementing federal E-Rate program

State Funding for the Regional Public Library Systems



Regional Library Basic System Support			
System	FY23 Entitlement	FY24 Entitlement	Increase
Arrowhead	\$1,433,140	\$1,753,812	22%
East Central	\$822,249	\$1,037,931	26%
Great River	\$1,673,975	\$1,912,811	14%
Kitchigami	\$679,944	\$939,144	38%
Lake Agassiz	\$599,107	\$846,504	41%
MELSA	\$5,053,056	\$6,218,182	23%
Northwest	\$320,299	\$527,723	65%
Pioneerland	\$467,711	\$722,955	55%
Plum Creek	\$340,198	\$586,895	73%
SELCO	\$1,307,782	\$1,644,973	26%
Traverse des Sioux	\$533,315	\$793,434	49%
Viking	\$339,226	\$585,636	73%
Total:	\$13,570,000	\$17,570,000	22.8%

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 \$2M 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
- \$88M 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 and distribute funds through competitive subawards to libraries and library support agencies

Minitex Services

- Received \$1.3 million in 2021 for statewide resource sharing, including interlibrary loan (ILL)
- 126,468 direct ILL requests from libraries; 328,777 items circulated

Current Subaward Projects

- Co-Creating Cultural Storytimes and Play Spaces with Community
- Library internship programs

LSTA Distribution

State Library Services **statewide programs and subgrants** to libraries and library support organizations (**Minitex**)

\$2.5 M

Staff salaries and operations for State Library Services and the Minnesota Braille and Talking Book Library

\$0.69 M

\$0M \$0.50M \$1.0M \$1.50M \$2.0M \$2.50M

Distribution of LSTA Grants to States Allotment

State Aid and Grant Programs

Program	FY23 Amount	FY24 Amount	Recipients	Purpose
Regional Library Basic System Support (RLBSS)	\$13.57M	\$17.5M	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	\$1.3M	\$2M	Multitype systems	Basic operations at 7 multitype library systems
Legacy Grants	\$2.5M	\$2.75M	Regional systems	Arts and cultural heritage programming at public library locations
Construction Grants	\$2.951M (FY21)	\$4M	Local gov. units	Construction and renovation costs
School Library Aid	0	\$42M	Eligible school districts and charter schools	Support school libraries
One-Time Multitype Appropriation	0	\$1M	Multitype systems	Increase number of licensed school media specialists

State Library Services Responsibilities

Provide advice and instruction to libraries

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

Professional Development

State Library Services provides targeted staff training open to all Minnesota library workers

High-quality, ongoing training is essential for library workers and varies widely

Training topics:

Community and family engagement, youth development, employment assistance, mental health, safety and security, reference and databases, equity and diversity, data and evaluation, collection development

2023 Professional Development

- Neurodivergence & Libraries Summit
- Early Literacy and Early Childhood Development, School Readiness, Family Engagement
- Research Institute for Public Libraries Conference
- BIPOC Advisory Committee
- Live More, Screen Less professional development training for School Library Media Specialists



State Library Services Responsibilities

Provide advice and instruction to libraries

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

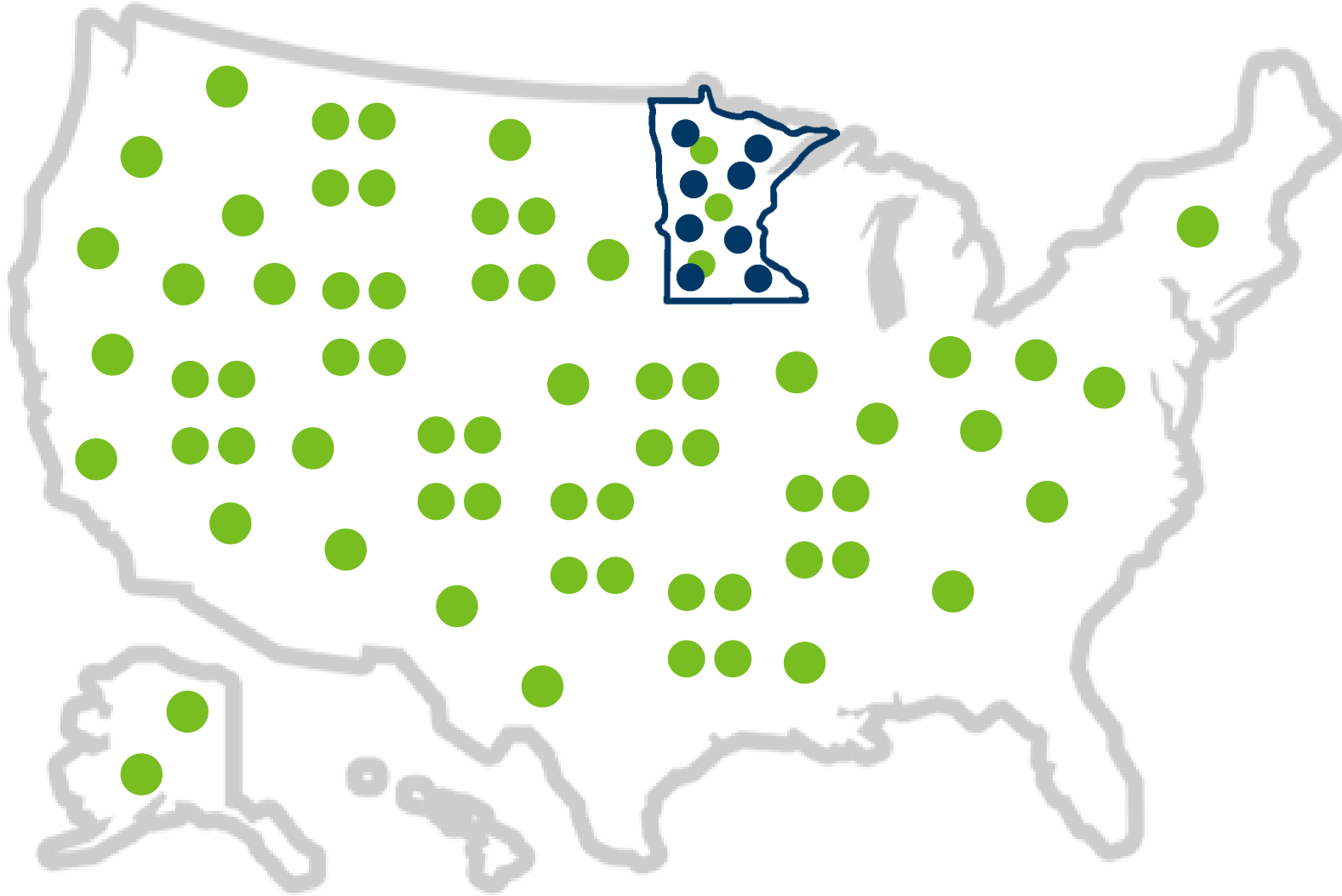
Coordinate learning and networking opportunities for library staff



Collect data on public library usage

Manage the MN Braille & Talking Book Library

Who Uses the Minnesota Public Library Annual Report?



- City and County Officials
- Library Boards

- Community Members

- Other Libraries
- Library Staff/Administration

- State and Federal Officials
- Friends Groups/Donors
- Regional Systems

State Library Services Responsibilities

Provide advice and instruction to libraries

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

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



Thank you!

Tamara Lee

Minnesota State Librarian

Director of State Library Services and Expanded Learning Opportunities

Tamara.Lee@state.mn.us