



From the State Library - August 26, 2021

## Announcing New State Library Director Endorsement Levels

The State Library is pleased to announce a new system of Endorsement levels for Iowa library directors. The new structure reduces the number of levels from six down to three, and is now primarily based on a director's level of secondary education achieved.

The new levels for directors simplify the Endorsement program while continuing to recognize that different sized libraries have different needs. The new levels also allow for more local control for library boards to determine and set the amount of experience needed when hiring a new director.

### New Levels & Achievement Requirements



#### **GOLD**

Graduate degree in library or information science from an American Library Association (ALA) accredited program.



#### **SILVER**

Bachelor's degree and completion of Director Endorsement coursework within 2 years of hire date.



#### **BRONZE**

High school diploma or equivalent and completion of Director Endorsement coursework within 2 years of hire date.

### Public Library Standards Update

**Standard #20** in [In Service to Iowa: Public Library Standards](#) has been changed to reflect the new Endorsement levels. The update will not affect a library's current or future level of Accreditation or Tier status. The updated language states:

*The library has a permanent, paid director who is endorsed at the required level within two years of hire date.*

City Population	Endorsement Level Options
0 – 4,999	Bronze, Silver, or Gold
5,000 – 14,999	Silver or Gold

15,000 and above	Gold
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It's important to note the education requirements based on population have not changed, and none of the levels have been made more difficult to achieve than previously.

**Directors, your new Endorsement level will automatically be applied to your account in IA Learns by tomorrow (Friday, August 27).**

Continue to use the [Application for Endorsement & Renewal Form](#) on the State Library website to apply for a new Endorsement, renew your current Endorsement, or request changes to a current Endorsement.

**For more information or questions, click the link below, or contact C.E. Consultant Sam Bowers at [Sam.Bowers@iowa.gov](mailto:Sam.Bowers@iowa.gov) or 515-281-6788.**

State Library Endorsement Program

1112 East Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319  
1-800-248-4483

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