Monday Morning Eye-Opener December 9, 2024

MONDAY MORNING EYE-OPENER

IOWA. | State Library of Iowa

December 9, 2024

New Director Meet-Ups

Beginning in January

At the State Library, the District Consultants and the Library Resource Techs (LRTs) for each District are often the first point of contact for newly hired library directors. District Consultants make initial visits to all libraries that welcome new directors, providing a State Library orientation; LRTs are in touch to assist with questions surrounding SILO, websites, Bridges, and much more.

Come **January 14, 2025 (1:00-2:00PM)** the District Consultants are teaming up to build on our initial orientation visits by inviting all new directors to join us in ZOOM for what we're calling *"New Director Meet-Ups."*

The idea is to extend our early conversations with new people by meeting online and offering the chance to talk about library management issues in more detail. Plus, we also see this as a great way to introduce new directors to each other, inside and outside of your own District. It's called networking, ya'all 😊

January will be our first such gathering, we're aiming for 3 times a year--winter, spring, and fall. And what do we consider "new?" We're thinking people who have been on the job for 1 year or less, although that question is really best answered by you. If you're a new library director for one month, for one year, or abit longer, this gathering will help you build connections with colleagues--that's the goal !

So we urge you to **Save the Date** on your New Year's calendar and join us on **January 14, 2025** (1:00-2:00PM) for *New Director Meet-Ups*. From the lyrics to a famous sitcom song *"Come and Knock on Our Door"* 😊

ZOOM Room Link: January Meet-Up

E-Rate Form470 Filing Window Open

E-Rate is a federal program that helps make Internet service more affordable for public libraries and schools. In order to qualify for E-rate funds for Internet and WiFi access, libraries must (1) have an Internet Use Policy (2) provide a Technology Protection Measure on library owned computers to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and (3) hold a public notice or meeting to address the proposed technology protection measure and Internet safety policy.

About 90 Iowa public libraries take advantage of E-Rate funding, saving anywhere from 60% to 80% off their Internet bill. Filing is done online in stages as various "windows" open. The first form in the filing sequence is **Form 470**. This form opens the required competitive bidding process, allowing service providers to review the posted form and submit bids for the requested Internet speed and equipment.

The filing window for Form 470 is now open and is expected to close sometime in February, so we encourage libraries interested in pursuing E-Rate to begin soon.

New In Funding Year 2025: Internet Hotspots & Service Qualify

For the first time starting beginning in FY 2025, WiFi hotspots and mobile wireless Internet service that can be used off-premises will be eligible for E-Rate funding. In addition, the budget for WiFi hotspots will be on a fixed three-year cycle. There are funding caps in place for the maximum pre-discount costs permitted to be reimbursed for hotspots and Internet service plans purchased through E-Rate. The pre-discount funding caps are:

- $90 per hotspot device
- $15 per month for recurring wireless internet service

Off-Premises Wi-Fi Hotspots Overview

Following **Form 470**, two additional forms must be filed at specific intervals: **Form 471** is the second one: it's the actual E-rate application to request discounts on eligible services and equipment for the upcoming funding year. Then comes **Form 486** which notifies USAC (Universal Service Administrative Company) that services have started for the library and certifies that the library is complying with CIPA.

State Library Resource Technician **Trisha Frazier** is available to provide assistance with completing **Form 470** and working through the entire E-Rate application process. Request a one-on-one session with Trisha by calling **515-725-3365** or emailing trisha.frazier@iowa.gov.
Lots more information at the button below.

State Library's E-Rate Page

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:
2025 STEM FAIRS & SUMMER READING SUMMITS

STEM FAIRS

LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY
iREAD Summer Reading • ireadprogram.org

Six Locations Across Iowa in March | *More information and registration coming soon!*

STEM Fairs Coming In March
Call For Proposals Now Open

Plans are already in motion for two special events in March 2025: STEM Fairs and Summer Reading Summits. Brought to you by the State Library of Iowa, these programs will be held in person in six locations—one location in each District. And today, this opportunity: our **Call for Proposals** for the STEM Fairs is open--your participation helps make these STEM Fairs a success!

If you have a great STEM program or service for youth or teens that you'd love to spread the word about, then consider submitting a proposal to present at the Fair in your District. Selected applicants must be available to present their session twice on the same day, once in the morning and again in the afternoon.
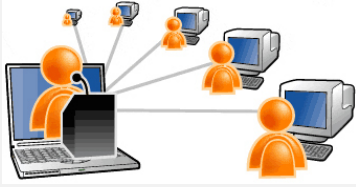
All proposals are due on January 10, 2025 by 4:30PM. Questions? Contact Youth Services Consultant [Janeé Jackson-Doering](#) Note: the Summer Reading Summits will be held on the day following each STEM Fair.

STEM Fairs Dates & Locations In March 2025

- **Monday March 3:** Central District @ Johnston Public Library
- **Thursday March 6:** Southeast District @ Coralville Public Library
- **Monday March 10:** Southwest District @Green Hills AEA Avoca
- **Monday March 24:** Northeast District @ Oelwein Public Library
- **Thursday March 27:** North Central District @ Algona Public Library
- **Monday March 31:** Northwest District @ Rockwell City Public Library

Submit a Proposal for the 2025 STEM Fair

Webinars This Week

So … we took some time off over the Thanksgiving Holiday. Now it looks like State Library webinars are back in full force with C.E. credit programs on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday this week! It's a menu of options, register at the links below.

iREAD 2025 Showcase. Online.
December 9. 12:00-1:00PM

Learn all about the 2025 iREAD theme: *Level Up at Your Library.*
Be inspired with ideas for decorations, programs, and get a sneak peek at the theme for 2026.

Register With iREAD

Pop YS Live. Supercharged Storytimes: Cohort Reflections.
Online. December 11. 1:00-2:00PM

This month's Pop YS Live features a panel of our first group of Supercharged Storytime cohort members. Each participant will have a chance to share what they learned from the 6 Supercharged Storytimes modules. Hear how they are now applying what they learned in their library: from increasing interactivity with children during storytimes to advocating the value of storytimes to stakeholders.

Register in Workday Learning

Building Projects 101. Online. December 12. 1:00-2:30PM

Join us for this panel discussion featuring Iowa librarians who have successfully overseen major library building projects. Panelists from libraries of all sizes will share their experiences managing the process to create innovative, community-focused spaces. Gain valuable insights into project management, fundraising, and community engagement strategies that make these projects a success. Whether you're planning a renovation, considering a new build, or simply curious about the process, this session offers an opportunity to learn from professionals who have transformed library spaces to better serve their communities. Panelists include: Cheryl Talbert (Director @ Blakesburg Public Library) Sue Ponder (Director @ Prairie City Public Library) and Cheryl Heid (Director @ Grimes Public Library) Moderated by Central District Consultant Maryann Mori

Register in Workday Learning

Monday Morning Eye-Opener

Editor: Bonnie McKewon