

Illinois Public Library Standards: Governance & Administration

Illinois public libraries are governed by locally elected or appointed boards, which operate under the Illinois Local Library Act (75 ILCS 5) or the Illinois Public Library District Act (75 ILCS 16). The library board sets policies, oversees budgets and hires a director to manage day to day operations. Libraries may be municipal, district, or part of other government entities, and they receive funding through local property taxes, state grants and other sources. The Illinois State Library, under the Secretary of State, provides oversight with guidance and funding support. Additionally, regional library systems assist with resource sharing and professional development.

The library director serves as the chief administrator responsible for managing daily operations, maintaining building and grounds, implementing board policies, and ensuring the library meets community needs. They oversee staff, budgeting, strategic planning and compliance with state and local regulations. The director works closely with the board by providing reports and recommendations and advocates for funding and community partnerships. Additionally, they facilitate programming, collection development, and technology initiatives to enhance public services.

| STANDARD | CORE | INTERMEDIATE | ADVANCED |
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| 1 | The board has an approved set of bylaws that outline its rules and procedures. | The board bylaws are reviewed at least every 3-5 years. | An attorney reviews the board bylaws periodically. |
| 2 | The library complies with local, state and federal laws. This includes the Illinois Open Meetings Act [5 ILCS 120] and the Freedom of Information Act. Per these statutes, the library has an OMA designee and one or more FOIA officers. | | |

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| 3 | The board meets regularly to conduct the business of the library in accordance with the Illinois Compiled Statutes. | | |
| 4 | At each regular meeting, the board reviews and approves minutes and financial reports. | At each regular meeting, the library director presents to the board a report of library activities and statistics. | At each regular meeting, the library director presents supplemental materials to the board (e.g., departmental reports, analysis of statistics). |
| 5 | The library has a board-approved mission statement. | The mission statement is reviewed periodically by the board, director, and staff. | The library creates a vision or values statement. |
| 6 | Trustees represent the needs, interests, and aspirations of the community. | Trustees solicit input on library activities from the community. | Trustees serve on other local committees and forums acting as a bridge from the library to the community. |
| 7 | The library prepares and submits the Illinois Public Library Annual Report (IPLAR), as required by statute. [75 ILCS 16/30-65] | The IPLAR is prepared by administration and presented to the board of trustees at a public meeting. | |

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| 8 | The library has public and internal policies that are approved by the board. | The director regularly includes relevant staff in the drafting and review of policies. The board reviews these policies on a regular rotation. | Library policies are regularly reviewed by an attorney or expert on the relevant topic. |
| 9 | The library has a strategic plan that is developed by the board, director, and staff. | The strategic plan is reviewed regularly by the board, director and staff. | The library includes members of the community in strategic plan development. |
| 10 | The library has a succession plan for the director. | The library has a succession plan for the director and key staff. | The succession plan is reviewed with the board and administration and updated as needed. |
| 11 | The board and director develop an orientation program for new trustees. | The board actively participates in ongoing continuing education activities. | |
| 12 | The library maintains insurance coverage for property damage, general liability, professional liability, cyber liability, workers' compensation, treasurer's bond/government crime, and directors and officers. Coverage needs may vary based on library size, location, and services provided. | | |

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| 13 | The board, as an advocate for the library, identifies community priorities, ensures proper funding, and plans for the future. | The board advocates for the library with local stakeholders. | The board advocates for the library with state and federal stakeholders. |
| 14 | The library board, director, and staff are aware of the services offered by the regional library systems, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association. | The library board, director, and staff are engaged with the regional library systems, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association (e.g., attend workshops, meetings, and conferences, and subscribe to library system e-news, <i>ILA Reporter</i>). | The library board, director, and staff participate as members of professional boards, committees, task forces, advisory councils of the regional library system, the Illinois State Library and the Illinois Library Association. |
| 15 | The director participates in professional development activities, including Directors University for first-time Illinois directors. | The library provides financial support for the director's membership in professional organizations. | The director contributes to the profession by committee service, presentations, and authorship. |