

Activities of the Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont

March 15, 2023

The Working Group on the Status of Libraries in Vermont was established in 2021 by Act 66 and is charged with studying the status of public, school, academic, and special libraries in our state. The Working Group's written report is due to the Senate and House Committees on Education by November 1, 2023. State Librarian and Commissioner of Libraries Delneo became Working Group Chair on February 13, 2022.

The regular meetings of the Working Group are held on the 4th Friday of every other month. Meetings are typically 5 hours in duration, with a break mid-day for lunch. Each Working Group meeting is focused on a specific topic called out in its establishing legislation or on administrative tasks. To address all areas of its scope, the Working Group has added special meetings into its schedule. Written comments are solicited in advance of each topical meeting of the Working Group and are posted on the department's website. Working Group meetings typically include a report on the topic under consideration by Department of Libraries staff or other experts within state government or the field, public comment, scheduled comments from interested parties, and discussion by Working Group members. The Working Group has convened ten meetings and will meet at least five more times prior to November 2023:

- Inclusive Library Services, January 27, 2023
- Survey Development, Programming Overview by Dept. of Libraries staff, December 16, 2022
- Continuing Education, November 18, 2022
- Staffing, July 22, 2022
- Technology, May 20, 2022
- Facilities, Mar. 25, 2022
- Collections, Jan. 14, 2022
- Programming, Nov. 12, 2021
- Review of Learning and Future Plans, September 23, 2022
- Kick-Off Meeting, September 17, 2021

Upcoming Meetings:

- Social Services & Emergency Preparedness, March 24, 2023
- Intellectual Freedom, April 21, 2023
- Library Structures and Organizations, May 26, 2023
- Survey results (Salary & Staffing and Public Engagement), July 28, 2023
- Recommendations and Report Writing, September 22, 2023

The Working Group is a public body and adheres to open meeting law. Video recordings of meetings, agendas, minutes, supporting documents, and written comments are posted on the Working Group's webpage.

<https://libraries.vermont.gov/services/projects/working-group-status-libraries-vermont>