



MEMORANDUM

TO: South Carolina Public Library Directors
FROM: Leesa M. Aiken, Agency Director *LMA*
DATE: June 24, 2024
SUBJECT: FY25 State Aid to County Library Funding

The South Carolina State Library is charged with distribution of State Aid to County Library funds. The South Carolina State Library is also charged with ensuring public libraries are in compliance with the South Carolina Code of Laws and South Carolina Code of Regulations related to the State Aid to County Libraries.

During the FY24 legislative session, changes were introduced and adopted relating to State Aid to County Library funds which require each public library to certify to the State Library that their library does not offer any books or materials that appeal to the prurient interest of children under the age of seventeen in children's youth, or teen book sections of libraries and are only made available with explicit parental consent.

South Carolina Code of Laws, Section 60-1-90 and Chapter 75-1 of the South Carolina Code of Regulations related to governance of public libraries in South Carolina is clear and places the responsibility of collection development at the local level, through the local public library board stating: "Any library receiving State Aid shall be legally established and administered by a legally appointed board and shall: ... (6) Systematically acquire library materials consistent with a collection development policy approved by the local board."

The State Library is in the process of requesting an Attorney General's opinion on the matter related to authority of collection development in public libraries, however this could take some time. In an attempt to meet the requirements of proviso 27.1 and adhere to the law related to governance of public libraries, the State Library created a Collection Development Funding Certification form. **This form must be completed and sent to the South Carolina State Library before your first quarter State Aid payment can be distributed;** this form does not have to be turned in with the entire State Aid packet.

The Collection Development Funding Certification form certifies that your public library has a Collection Development policy in place, a Request for Reconsideration Form available, and that your library card application clearly identifies the age at which a child can obtain a library card without parental consent – all three of which are best practices for libraries and recommendations by the State Library.