

Trustee Report
Manske Library Board
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Federal Legislative Updates

The House Education and Workforce Committee in the house has passed HB 7661, and the Senate has stalled SB4925 in committee. Both are referred to as the Stop the Sexualization of Children and would ban materials with sexually explicit content in school libraries. Definitions of the targeted content are unclear and up to interpretation. The House has not chosen to bring the bill to the floor. It is doubtful that either the House or Senate will take action on the legislation before the midterm elections.

The HB 8235, part of the Right to Read Act also known as Books Save Lives is legislation designed to protect libraries who have a reasonable selection process from the banning of books including LGBTQ characters or factual information about anatomy and human sexuality designed for older readers. That bill was introduced in December 2025 and has been stalled in committee.

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/libraries/article/100876-national-book-ban-bill-now-introduced-in-senate-committee.html>

<https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/childrens/childrens-industry-news/article/99319-reintroduction-of-federal-right-to-read-act-aims-to-bolster-literacy-school-libraries.html>

Library Staffing in Public Schools in Texas

Due to reduced state funding some Texas districts are replacing librarian positions with para-professionals. When school starts this fall in the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District near San Antonio, none of the district's 15 campus libraries will be operated by a certified librarian. The decision to replace the librarians, even after closing 4 campuses due to low enrollment, is a function of the state budget cuts to schools. Only 30 districts in the state receive less funding than this suburban district in Guadalupe, Bexar, and Comal Counties.

<https://www.tpr.org/education/2026-06-10/schertz-cibolo-universal-city-isd-is-replacing-all-of-its-librarians-with-paras>

Trends in Library Furniture

The link below describes how public libraries around the USA are creating dedicated spaces for the unique and diversified needs of multi-age groups. Spaces for privacy, collaboration and children, for example are being created with unique furniture designs to accommodate increased use and increased variety in patron needs. The article cited below discusses interesting pods, varied furniture arrangements and spaces that have been rethought in a variety of cities around the country.

https://www.libraryjournal.com/story/sponsored/public-library-furniture-trends---2026-market-predictions-lj260601?fbclid=IwY2xjawSj9pZleHRuA2FlbQlxMABicmlkETFuaWZ2QTB3Z2w0YVBBOEfnc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHgwWM-Cg-pzla9PdDs6VkyHep0C_qgLlmGrbVKc7Aqr5lw0Aj6PBjOkKy0H3_aem_a1bJ5JQFSQm9EeunHDtIBg

FCC E-rate Bidding Program

Issues impacting Public Library acquisition of collections and services continue to dominate the library news cycle. The ALA has expressed concern over a new FCC bidding portal program. This program creates another step for libraries seeking to purchase electronic services and connectivity through access to E-File federal funds. Here is a quote from the President of ALA:

“Sam Helmick, President of ALA said, “ALA is disappointed that the commissioners have come to a rushed decision to add a layer of bureaucracy to a program that does so much good. E-Rate is a proven cornerstone of broadband access, with overwhelming support from libraries, schools, and state and local leaders who rely on it every day. For years, ALA has worked closely with the FCC to reduce applicant burden and streamline participation. The new portal threatens to undermine that progress and create confusion for applicants. ALA will continue dialogue with the FCC and Congress to ensure that these changes are informed by the experiences of library applicants and that libraries can continue accessing E-Rate funds without disruption in order to deliver essential connectivity to their communities. Also, ALA's E-Rate Task Force will work with ALA Public Policy and Advocacy Office staff to develop materials such as FAQs and training webinars to support library applicants in navigating this change.””

<https://www.ala.org/news/2026/04/fcc-decision-new-e-rate-bidding-portal>

ALA Council adopts Guidance on the Use of Artificial Intelligence in Libraries

A new resource for helping libraries develop humane and ethical AI policies has been developed by the ALA's AI Policy Working Group. The 30 member group considered the implications of AI for libraries and staff. The guidance is meant to be updated as technology, professional, and community needs change. It recognizes the increasing importance of AI on library operations. The ALA will offer virtual training to library staff, so they can understand key considerations in the guidance.

<https://www.ala.org/news/2026/07/ala-council-adopts-guidance-use-artificial-intelligence-libraries>