

Library Services Platform Update

Friday, August 28, 2020 9:59 AM



Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your college community are healthy and safe during these trying times. I'm writing to provide an update on the resolution around the Library Services Platform.

As you may recall, in fiscal year 2017-18, working with the Council of Chief Librarians, the Chancellor's Office secured start-up funding to establish a single Library Services Platform for the colleges. Today, 110 colleges are on one platform through a System Office contract with ExLibris that runs through December 31, 2020.

On August 11th, I sent you an email to notify you that the Chancellor's Office team was working on a solution and we would provide you an update shortly. Over the years, the Chancellor's Office has worked diligently with the Council of Chief Librarians to advocate for ongoing funding. The Board of Governors supported ongoing funding for this purpose in both the 2019-20 and 2020-21 System Budget Requests. However, due to limited resources resulting from the pandemic and recession, no additional state funding was allocated to directly support the Library Services Platform.

With the contract nearing an end, our office was considering all options including a College Buys approach. The Council of Chief Librarians approached the League to launch a new agreement with ExLibris as part of its enterprise services portfolio. The longstanding relationship between the League and the Council of Chief Librarians is a fitting approach for a new subscription agreement moving forward. Prior to the Library Services Platform, districts paid for local library systems individually. Districts will once again be asked to support their portion of the Library Services Platform but continue to leverage savings through economies of scale. Districts may use unrestricted funds or funds designated for technology purposes as they see fit based on local decisions.

The Chancellor's Office fully supports the continuation of the statewide library platform. With growing statewide emergencies, our team will immediately turn to addressing these pressing challenges and support the League's partnership with the Council of Chief Librarians.

Regards,

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Chancellor

Executive Office

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