

Education**Projects Summary**

(\$ in thousands)

Project Title	Rank	Fund	Project Requests for State Funds			Gov's Rec	Gov's Planning Estimates	
			2026	2028	2030		2026	2028
Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants	1	GO	10,000	10,000	10,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Project Requests			10,000	10,000	10,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
General Obligation Bonds (GO) Total			10,000	10,000	10,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

AT A GLANCE

Services provided by the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) support three overarching strategies:

- Direct Support: MDE directly supports the continuous improvement of teaching and learning to schools, educators, children, students, and parents.
- E-12 Systems: MDE provides systems support through program and policy development and assessment.
- Guidance, Technical Assistance, and Funding: MDE provides supportive leadership to all education entities through guidance, technical assistance to meet state and federally legislated requirements, and administration of school funding programs.

MDE supports (2025):

- 876,746 students in prekindergarten through grade 12.
- Over 135,000 children participating in early learning programs.
- 327 school districts, 173 charter schools, and four tribal schools.
- 62,962 adult learners in fiscal year (FY) 2025.

PURPOSE

The MDE mission is: “Ensuring every child receives a quality education, no matter their race or zip code.” MDE is striving to make Minnesota the Education State, where the public education system is intentionally designed to help each individual student thrive.

In this work, MDE’s key objectives are:

- Every student deserves a world-class education.
- Every student deserves to attend a safe, nurturing learning environment.
- Every student deserves to learn in a classroom with caring, qualified teachers.
- MDE will provide leadership, support, and partnership to schools and libraries across the state.

STRATEGIES

In order to reach measurable goals for student achievement, Minnesota must prioritize diversity, equity, inclusion, and support for the student’s entire experience with school.

To achieve its mission, MDE provides leadership and support to students, educators, and schools using the following strategies:

Direct Support

- Department programs provide direct support in continuous improvement of teaching and learning to schools and districts. The Regional Centers of Excellence, now contained within the Collaborative Minnesota Partnerships to Advance Student Success (COMPASS) Regional Teams in the Minnesota Service Cooperatives, provide strategic instructional and leadership support and implementation of best practice strategies to improve teaching and learning in the classroom. While the most intensive support is aimed at those schools that need the most assistance, direct support is available to all districts, as needed, through the Regional Centers.

Prekindergarten through Grade 12 Systems

- MDE programs provide support for systems improvement through a comprehensive, collaborative approach. For example, MDE works to improve educators and leader quality by supporting and improving implementation of local educators and principal professional development and evaluation support systems that will benefit all Minnesota students. The state accountability system under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act and state World's Best Workforce legislation measures student performance from pre-K through postsecondary education and provides a comprehensive model of continuous system improvement for all districts.

Guidance, Technical Assistance, and Funding

- Department programs provide supportive leadership to all educational entities by issuing guidance and giving technical assistance to meet the myriads of state and federally legislated requirements. For instance, the technical assistance to districts in the development of their Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (formerly World's Best Workforce) plans results in a strategy for continuous improvement of school districts through the systemic alignment of legislative requirements in a manner that is streamlined, equitable, and effective for all districts. The department also administers school funding programs, including the calculation and distribution of various funding sources.

M.S. 119A; M.S. 120-129; M.S. 134-135.

AT A GLANCE

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) provides the infrastructure for services and assistance to children, students, teachers, parents, and schools. We exist to improve educational achievement by establishing clear standards, measuring performance, assisting educators, and increasing opportunities for lifelong learning.

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) provides services in three primary ways:

- Direct Support: We directly support the continuous improvement of teaching and learning for schools, teachers, children, students, and parents.
- E-12 Systems: We provide systems support through program and policy development and assessment.
- Guidance, Technical Assistance, and Funding: We provide supportive leadership to all educational entities by providing guidance, technical assistance to meet state and federally legislated requirements, and administration of school funding programs.

Factors Impacting Facilities or Capital Programs

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) assists school districts, charter schools, libraries, and other educational organizations in the acquisition of funds to provide safe, program appropriate, and accessible education facilities that support student success. This also provides library access to all Minnesotans.

Capital resources are available for most schools through levy and aid programs provided by state law, including the debt equalization program, natural disaster debt service equalization, operating capital revenue, capital projects levy, lease levy, and long-term facilities maintenance funding. Schools with extremely low property wealth do not have a sufficient tax base to raise funds for the construction of needed educational facilities.

Libraries and other non-school district educational organizations may be limited in their ability to raise funds for local facility projects. Capital funding through general obligation bonding and the state general fund is necessary for those entities that do not have access to these or other funding sources but must rely upon state support for virtually all major capital facilities projects.

A number of local libraries have aging facilities that need architectural barriers removed, renovations, and/or additions to enable all citizens to access the facility, allow local libraries to provide adequate library services, and remediate conditions hazardous to health or safety. Matching grants through MDE for local libraries provide an incentive for local communities to upgrade and maintain facilities.

Overall, demand for capital facility projects in school districts is increasing.

Self-Assessment of Agency Facilities and Assets

Education laws provide for capital loan and grant programs, the cooperative secondary facilities grant program, the metropolitan magnet school grant program, and library grant programs. Each of these programs provides for specific needs for those organizations that cannot access other sources of funding.

In general, school district facility construction is considered a local responsibility. The state provides limited support to local districts in their efforts to construct and maintain appropriate, safe, and healthy school facilities through the debt equalization program, natural disaster debt service equalization, operating capital revenue

capital projects levy, lease levy, and long-term facilities maintenance funding. Very few districts currently qualify for state debt service equalization aid, and the capital projects levy and lease levy are not equalized by the state. The state provides a higher share of revenue for the operating capital, natural disaster debt service equalization, and long-term facilities maintenance programs.

Agency Process for Determining Capital Requests

Department management identifies and assesses high priority needs in relationship to agency goals and objectives, and state and federal mandates. MDE staff had discussions internally and externally to determine what funding was most needed.

Major Capital Projects Authorized in 2024 and 2025

- 2025: \$750,000 for Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants, Ch. 15

Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants**AT A GLANCE****2026 Request Amount:** \$10,000**Priority Ranking:** 1**Project Summary:** This request is for \$10 million in state general obligation bonds for the Mary C. Murphy library construction grants program. Grants will be distributed statewide through a competitive process and provide funding for library infrastructure to repair, modernize, and construct library facilities. These funds will also be to maintain and improve access to library services for people with disabilities and extend the useful life of library buildings in Minnesota.**Project Description**

Library Construction grants require a one-to-one non-state match and are awarded in amounts up to \$300 thousand for library accessibility projects and up to \$1 million for new construction, repair work or remodeling.

Library Construction Grants leverage state bond funds with local dollars for renovation, construction and improvement projects that extend the useful life of library buildings while resulting in more accessible public library buildings. In addition to ensuring that public library buildings meet Americans with Disabilities Act guidelines, library construction grants result in more sustainable and energy efficient public library facilities and improve library services. Grants are awarded in consultation with the Minnesota State Council on Disabilities. Projects may:

- Remove architectural barriers from a library building or site
- Remediate conditions hazardous to health or safety
- Renovate or expand an existing building for use as a library
- Construct a new library

Depending on grant size, five to fourteen projects receive funding. Since 1994, 170 projects in 67 counties have been supported. Through 2021, the local dollar to state dollar ratio is \$6.27 local to \$1.00 state.

Eligible applicants are regional public library systems, regional library districts, cities and counties operating public libraries that meet the statutory definition of a public library in Minnesota Statutes 134.001.

Project Rationale

Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants ensure that the Minnesota's public libraries meet modern energy efficiency standards and Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility requirements.

Given the limited resources available to public libraries for major building and construction projects, the state's contribution through this grant program is vital. It guarantees equitable access to public services for all residents and often serves as the necessary impetus for local and private funders to join in.

Demand for these grants is persistent. Between 2018 and 2024, State Library Services had \$7.951 million available but received requests totaling \$11.471 million. Furthermore, informal discussions with communities statewide indicate approximately 50 potential library improvement projects, collectively valued at over \$60 million, could significantly benefit from future Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grant support.

Project Timeline

- *August 2026 Competitive grant round opens
- *January 2027 Grantees notified of application status; MDE executes grant agreements
- *All projects completed with five years.

Other Considerations

In many communities across the state, older library buildings are nearing the end of their lifespan and are in need of improvements that address energy efficiency and sustainability in addition to accessibility. According to the public library data report, many buildings have not been updated in 50 years. Public libraries are highly valued community assets, and the Library Construction grant program signals the state's support for up-to-date, energy efficient, safe and accessible buildings that are open to all.

According to data collected by the Council of Regional Public Library Systems (CRPSLA), there is currently (2025) \$89,912,500 in public library capital needs throughout the state.

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

This request has an impact on the Department of Education's operating budget. The project is supported by .10 FTE of an existing staff member who administers the grant application, award and reporting processes.

Description of Previous Appropriations

2025 \$750 thousand

2023 \$4.0 million

2020 \$2.951 million

2018 \$1.0 million

2017 \$2.0 million

2014 \$2.0 million (\$877,000 earmarked for specific projects; \$1,123,000 available for competitive grants)

2012 \$1.0 million

2008 \$1.5 million

2006 \$1.0 million

2005 \$1.0 million

2003 \$1.0 million

2000 \$1.0 million

Project Contact Person

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Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends \$2 million in general obligation bonds for this request.

Education**Project Detail**

(\$ in thousands)

Mary C. Murphy Library Construction Grants**PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES**

Funding Source	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
<i>State Funds Appropriated and Requested</i>				
General Obligation Bonds	\$ 7,701	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
<i>State Funds Pending</i>				
<i>Non-State Funds Already Committed</i>				
<i>Non-State Funds Pending</i>				
TOTAL	\$ 7,701	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Six Prior Years	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
Property Acquisition	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Predesign Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Design Fees	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Project Management	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Construction	\$ 7,701	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Relocation Expenses	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
One Percent for Art	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Occupancy Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
TOTAL	\$ 7,701	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2026	FY 2028	FY 2030
IT Costs	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (\$)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0	0	0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	\$ 10,000	100 %
User Financing	\$ 0	0 %

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.

Has the project owner requesting state funds reviewed and agree to meet the applicable capital requirements listed in the “Statutory Requirements” below and in the “Capital Budget Requirements” section of the MMB Capital Budget Instruction documents?	
Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	No
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	N/A
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	N/A
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	N/A
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	N/A
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2030?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	No
Is the required information included in this request?	No