

Bellingham Public Library



Level of Service update: Library Materials

Approved by the Board of Trustees
August 20, 2024

When the Level of Service standard for Library Materials Expenditures/Capita was adopted in 2017, it was noted that “numbers will need to be adjusted in the future to reflect changes in costs of materials and/or processing.” This proposal outlines a methodology to adjust the Level of Service Standard for Library Materials Expenditures/Capita for inflation and population growth. It is recommended that these figures be updated every 3 years.

Goal: continual funding progress toward Medium (Operational) or High (Optimal) standard, adjusted for inflation and population growth.

Standard: Library Materials Expenditures/Capita (adopted 03/21/2017)

Low: \$5.00 **Medium:** \$7.50 **High:** \$10.00

Library Materials Expenditure/Capita standard - adjusted for inflation and population growth, compared to Materials Expenditure/Capita actuals*

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Low	\$5.00	\$5.67	\$5.72	\$5.61	\$5.36	\$5.51	\$5.60 [^]	\$5.69 [^]
Medium	\$7.50	\$8.51	\$8.58	\$8.41	\$8.04	\$8.26	\$8.40 [^]	\$8.53 [^]
High	\$10.00	\$11.34	\$11.43	\$11.22	\$10.72	\$11.02	\$11.20 [^]	\$11.37 [^]
Actuals	\$6.19	\$6.25	\$6.96	\$6.81	\$7.02	\$7.17 (budget) \$9.23 (actual)**	\$7.32	\$7.54 (budget)

* Average Annual Price Change for Hardback, Paperback, and E-Books. Source: Library Book Trade Almanac, data series' by Narda Tafuri, UofScranton (ret.). Data from B&T

[^] Estimate based on long-term trend average increase of 1.6%.

**Additional operational budget from open staffing positions was spent on materials in 2022

Forecast: Library Materials Expenditure/Capita (annual), adjusted for inflation and population growth

	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Low	\$5.78	\$5.87	\$5.96	\$6.06	\$6.16	\$6.26
Medium	\$8.67	\$8.81	\$8.95	\$9.09	\$9.24	\$9.38
High	\$11.56	\$11.74	\$11.93	\$12.12	\$12.31	\$12.51