

**STATE**

**DIVISION OF THE STATE LIBRARY**

**State Library Aid and Grants**

**Proposed Readoption with Amendments: N.J.A.C. 15:21**

**Proposed Repeals: N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.10, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11**

Authorized By: Jennifer R. Nelson, State Librarian (with the approval of Merodie A. Hancock, Ph. D., President, Thomas Edison State University).

Authority: N.J.S.A. 18A:74-1 et seq., particularly 18A:74-10.

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Proposal Number: PRN 2025-092.

Submit written comments by October 3, 2025, to:

Jennifer R. Nelson, State Librarian

New Jersey State Library

PO Box 520

Trenton New Jersey 08625-0520

Email: [jnelson@njstatelib.org](mailto:jnelson@njstatelib.org)

The agency proposal follows:

**Summary**

The Division of the State Library (Division) proposes to readopt, with amendments and repeals, N.J.A.C. 15:21, State Library Aid and Grants. The rules in this chapter were scheduled to expire on October 1, 2025. As the Division filed this notice of readoption with the Office of

Administrative Law prior to that date, the expiration date was extended 180 days to March 30, 2026, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:14B-5.1.c(2).

The rules implement the provisions at P.L. 1967, c. 28, P.L. 1983, c. 487, and P.L. 1985, c. 297 (N.J.S.A. 18A:74-1 et seq.), which provide for the administration of funding assistance programs and aid to New Jersey libraries. The rules also implement the provisions at P.L. 1967, c. 271, and P.L. 1973, c. 381 (N.J.S.A. 18A:74-6 and 14), which provide for incentive, emergency, and construction assistance to the State's public libraries. Amendments are proposed to clarify and ensure consistency of language and definitions, and to update provisions to better reflect the needs of New Jersey's public libraries in the 21st century.

The Division has conducted an administrative review and determined that, with the exception of the proposed amendments and repeals described below, these rules are necessary, reasonable, and proper for the purposes for which they were originally promulgated as required pursuant to Executive Order No. 66 (1978), and the State Library is, therefore, proposing them for readoption with amendments and repeals. Please note that the substantial provisions of the rules proposed to be readopted and amended or repealed are summarized below. Minor clarifying and/or technical amendments are also proposed that do not change the meaning of the text.

A summary of N.J.A.C. 15:21 and the proposed amendments and repeals follows:

### **Subchapter 1. General Provisions**

Subchapter 1 describes the general requirements that apply to State-funded library grant programs: grant application procedures, criteria for approval, reports and audits required, notification of applicants, appeal procedures, and definitions.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.1 describes the purpose of the chapter.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.2 defines the terms that apply throughout the chapter and is proposed for amendment to reflect changes in the technology used by libraries, to define “local library cooperative” for use throughout the chapter, to clarify the definition of “public library,” and to remove outdated and offensive terminology. The changes create an improved correlation between the activities of 21st century libraries, the State’s rules, and increase transparency.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.3 is proposed for amendment to include an email address for applications and to reflect the change in title of the publication that announces the availability of grant opportunities.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.4 is proposed for amendment to update the approval criteria for grants to better reflect the community-focused nature of public libraries in the 21st century.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.5 sets forth reporting and audit requirements.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.6 is proposed for amendment to increase the amount of time for the State Librarian to recommend approval or rejection of a grant application from 90 days to 120 days, so that a thorough review and vetting process may take place.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-1.7 describes appeals from the State Librarian’s decision.

## **Subchapter 2. State Library Aid**

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.1 sets forth the purpose of the per capita library aid program.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.2 sets forth the rules pertaining to governance.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.3 describes minimum requirements for the receipt of per capita State Library aid regarding compliance with laws governing public libraries’ training of trustees. It is proposed to be amended to change the required training hours to be calculated on a per-board member basis. Feedback from a variety of stakeholders cited ongoing concerns about the training of library board members, as pursuant to the existing rule, some board members could receive no

training. The amended rule would solve that problem by establishing required training hours for each member.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.4 describes minimum staffing requirements, including the number of employee hours for full-time and part-time staff, the number of professional hours required and, for libraries serving a population over 7,500 in the most current decennial census, the requirement for a professional library director who holds a professional librarian certificate.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.5 describes minimum requirements for library materials and their availability. The proposed amendment would remove the requirement for per capita annual purchases and the requirement that each library has periodical indexes available. With the movement toward the purchase of e-books, and the rise in reciprocal borrowing, the per capita purchase number is no longer meaningful. E-books and e-resources are typically acquired using a subscription or lease model, which means that materials purchased in one year may or may not be available in subsequent years. The State Library provides all residents access to full text online periodicals and magazines, negating the need for each library to purchase individual copies of indexes. The change in the library market has also resulted in a significant decrease in the availability of print indexes, and the cost of online e-resources is prohibitive for many libraries.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.6 describes minimum standards for library hours of service, types of service, and the quality of service. It also identifies the required number of hours for library-related training. The proposed amendment would provide additional flexibility in scheduling evening and weekend hours, allowing local use patterns to determine when the library is open. Libraries unable to meet the evening/weekend requirement due to budgetary or staffing limitations have been unfairly penalized with a loss of State Aid. The requirement related to the

total number of open hours per week and per year would not be altered. The requirement for library-related training hours would be standardized to provide a minimum number of required hours for all staff members.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.7 describes the reduction in per capita State Library aid for failure to meet minimum requirements in the employees, materials, and hours of service regulations. Libraries in the 21st century serve a different community purpose than in earlier decades; the rules do not reflect the nature of what a library is. With technology-based services becoming predominant, smaller and less well-funded libraries cannot meet both the regulatory requirements related to print purchases and the demand for technology access. The proposed amendment would lower the percent of reduction to 25 percent for failure to meet requirements pertaining to employees, the “basic book collection” requirement under the materials category, and for hours of service requirements. It would remove the reduction completely for failing to meet the “annual purchases” and “periodicals” requirements in the materials category. While the intent of the standards is to encourage high-quality service, the unintended consequence of the existing rule is that libraries with small budgets have been penalized for circumstances beyond their control. While some accountability for meeting minimum requirements is reasonable, it is not reasonable or equitable to further reduce the funding available to libraries for circumstances beyond their control, especially in poorer communities.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.8 describes for what purposes the board of trustees or county library officials may use per capita aid and is proposed for amendment to replace references of “chosen freeholders” to “county commissioners.” The proposed amendments would also remove the requirement for the State Librarian to consider, when reviewing plans submitted by a county library commission or county commissioners for the use of unspent balances, whether the plan

includes realistic, attainable, and time-bound objectives. This has not been implemented in many years, and most libraries have strategic plans that perform a similar function. There is no process or requirement for the State Librarian to follow up to determine if objectives have been met, nor any consequences for failure to achieve.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.9 describes the application of a special census.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.10 describes the requirements that pertain if per capita aid is used for new construction, an addition, or structural changes. The proposed repeal would remove the requirement that the State Librarian approve the building program/plans. In practice, this has not been enforced for several years, since excess per capita funds available for construction have been quite scarce. In addition, the State Librarian lacks the expertise to assess a building program or plan and provide useful feedback.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.11 describes the process for revision of the regulatory criteria. The proposed amendment would remove language related to achieving national standards, as there are no national standards, and would remove a reference to the State Library Advisory Council, which no longer exists.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.12 describes the availability of applications. The proposed amendment would include an email address for requesting an application.

#### **Subchapter 4. Emergency Aid**

The Division proposes to repeal the subchapter, as the program has not been funded since fiscal year (FY) 2003.

#### **Subchapter 5. Library Construction Incentive Program**

The Division proposes to repeal the subchapter, as the program has not been funded since FY 1990.

### **Subchapter 9. Collection Evaluation and Development**

The Division proposes to repeal the subchapter, as the program has not been funded since before FY 1987.

### **Subchapter 10. Maintenance of Library Collections**

The Division proposes to repeal the subchapter, as the program has not been funded since before FY 1987.

### **Subchapter 11. Public Library Project Grant Program**

The Division proposes to repeal the subchapter, as the program has not been funded since FY 2003.

### **Subchapter 12. Municipal Annual Mandatory Library Appropriation for the Maintenance of a Free Public Library**

This subchapter consolidates and clarifies requirements related to municipal and joint free public libraries in the State.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-12.1 provides the purpose and applicability of the subchapter.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-12.2 applies the rules to all municipal and joint free libraries.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-12.3 sets forth definitions of terms used in this subchapter; amendments are proposed to update the terminology and to clarify what may constitute a capital expense and what may constitute an eligible cost. This brings the definitions in line with library programs offered in the 21st century, and answers questions frequently received by the New Jersey State Library related to eligible capital expenses and eligible costs.

N.J.A.C. 15:21-12.6, 12.7, 12.8, and 12.9 provide a listing of ineligible uses of per capita State Aid funds.

As the Division has provided a 60-day comment period on this notice of proposal, this notice is excepted from the rulemaking calendar requirement, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

### **Social Impact**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals provide standards for the operation of New Jersey's free public municipal, county, and joint libraries. Collectively, New Jersey's public libraries provide free and reliable access to information – in print and electronic formats – that helps people pursue employment, education, social connections, civic engagement, and health. Further, today's public libraries provide free and open access to the internet and the tools of technology that are required for engaging in the 21st century society. Together, these library resources improve the quality of life for New Jersey residents. Access to information is fundamental to education and reasoned social change, growth, and prosperity in business and industry, and sound and equitable government. The proposed amendments and repeals would have a positive effect on social impact by treating libraries more equitably in the distribution of State Aid, supporting greater transparency in the use of State funds, and improving the knowledge of library trustees.

### **Economic Impact**

The primary economic impact expected from the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals is related to the calculation of State Aid and with respect to reducing penalties for a library not meeting certain standards. This will serve to ensure that libraries that have fewer financial resources are not punished economically by the State for offering services that fall below outdated minimum standards. In recent years, the State Librarian has granted



most requests for exemption from the penalties, recognizing the lingering impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on local budgets and the changing nature of library services and collections. The amount of State Aid provided in total is not impacted.

The rules proposed for repeal will have no economic impact, as the affected programs are funded separately, and have been unfunded for at least 20 years.

The remainder of the proposed amendments will not have a significant economic impact, beyond any impact discussed above and in the Summary.

### **Federal Standards Statement**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals are not subject to any Federal standards or requirements. Therefore, a Federal standards analysis is not required.

### **Jobs Impact**

The Division anticipates that there will be no increase or decrease in the number of jobs resulting from the rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals.

### **Agriculture Industry Impact**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals impose no impact upon the agriculture industry.

### **Regulatory Flexibility Analysis**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals primarily affect approximately 4,500 academic, institutional, public, school, and special libraries, historical

societies, museums, and media centers, none of which are small businesses as defined pursuant to the Regulatory Flexibility Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-16 et seq. No further analysis is needed.

### **Housing Affordability Impact Analysis**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals will have no impact on the affordability of housing or on the average cost of housing in New Jersey because the rules pertain solely to the State library's administration of State Aid and the regulations that govern the operations of public libraries.

### **Smart Growth Development Impact Analysis**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals will not have an impact on smart growth and there is an extreme unlikelihood that the proposed amendments would evoke a change in housing production in Planning Areas 1 or 2, or within designated centers, pursuant to the State Development and Redevelopment Plan in New Jersey because the rules pertain solely to the State library's administration of State Aid and the regulations that govern the operations of public libraries.

### **Racial and Ethnic Community Criminal Justice and Public Safety Impact**

The rules proposed for readoption with amendments and repeals will have no impact on racial and ethnic community criminal justice and public safety as they concern only the operation, governance, and funding of public libraries. Accordingly, no further analysis is required.

**Full text** of the rules proposed for readoption may be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 15:21.

**Full text** of the rules proposed for repeal may be found in the New Jersey Administrative Code at N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.10, 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11.

**Full text** of the proposed amendments follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

## SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

### 15:21-1.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

...

["Audio-visual" means communications resources which rely on a device for transmission, reproduction, or enlargement to be effectively utilized or understood. Also included are other non-print resources such as art works and objects.]

...

"Collection development" means activities relating to the development of a library collection, including, but not limited to, the determination and coordination of selection **and reconsideration** policies, assessment of needs of users and potential users, collection use studies, collection evaluation, identification of collection needs, selection of materials, planning for resource sharing, collection maintenance and weeding, and purchase of library materials in any format.

...

"Coordinated collection development plan" means an agreement extended by a group of libraries **or a local library cooperative** to take responsibility for building and maintaining collections in specific subject areas to increase the resource sharing capabilities of the libraries.

...

**"Electronic resources" means library materials accessible through a computer network or internet-based service, including, but not limited to, books and databases.**

...

"Institution" means an adult or juvenile health, mental health, [mental retardation] **intellectual or developmental disability**, veterans, residential, correctional, and other similar facility other than a public school, which is operated by, or under contract to, the State or to county or municipal governments to carry out health, welfare, educational, and correctional programs. Excluded are general hospitals, nursing homes, and boarding homes.

...

**"Local library cooperative" means a membership organization of libraries and library-related agencies, organized as a non-profit corporation pursuant to N.J.S.A. 15A:1-1 et seq., that has agreed to provide and receive cooperative services.**

...

"Non-print public library services" means provision of access to non-print materials **including, but not limited to, electronic resources**, to clientele of a public library.

...

"Public library" means a municipal, county, association, or joint library, [which] **that** receives public funding **and is established pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:54-1 et seq., 40:33-1 et seq., and 15:1-1.**

...

#### 15:21-1.3 Grant application procedures

(a) The State Library requires the use of a standard application for the grant programs, unless otherwise specified. Application forms, unless otherwise specified, may be obtained from:

New Jersey State Library

Grant Applications

185 West State Street

PO Box 520

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0520[.]

**or by email to [grants@njstatelib.org](mailto:grants@njstatelib.org)**

(b) Applications must conform to the requirements for completion and the deadline dates as specified by the State Librarian in [the] "[Grants Bulletin] **NJSL Direct**."

#### 15:21-1.4 Criteria for approval

(a) Evaluation of the applications may be based on the following criteria, with additional criteria provided depending on the individual grant:

1. A statement of the applicant's **and community's** need as it relates to the stated purpose of the grant;

2. A rationale providing a description of the potential project and the basis for the selection of a particular [solution] **set of activities** or method for the project;

3. (No change.)

4. [An action plan] **A timeline** describing the activities and resources needed to reach the stated objectives of the project **during the grant period**;

5. (No change.)

6. A budget listing how requested funds will be used to support the [action plan]

**activities.** Appropriate budget forms are supplied with application forms.

(b) (No change.)

#### 15:21-1.6 Notification of applicants

Applicants will be informed of the State Librarian's recommendations of approval or rejection within [90] **120** days of application deadline.

### SUBCHAPTER 2. STATE LIBRARY AID

#### 15:21-2.3 Certification

(a) In order to receive any State [library] **Library** aid, all public libraries must annually certify that:

1. (No change.)

2. [A] **Each** member [or members] of the board or commission has [or have] received a minimum of [seven] **two** total hours of library-related education annually; and

3. (No change.)

#### 15:21-2.5 Library materials

(a) A minimum collection of 8,000 volumes or one volume per capita, whichever is greater, shall be available in all libraries established pursuant to the provisions [of] **at** N.J.S.A. 40:54-1 et seq., [N.J.S.A.] 40:54-29.3 et seq., and [N.J.S.A.] 40:33-1 et seq.

[(b) A minimum of 1/10 of volume per capita shall be purchased annually. Non-print materials, computer software and electronic reference services may be equated to volumes purchased. To equate non-print materials, computer software and electronic reference services with print purchases:

1. Divide total materials budget, excluding expenditure for periodicals, by the average price per volume as computed in New Jersey Library Statistics for the preceding calendar year;  
or

2. Divide total expenditure for non-print materials, computer software and electronic reference services by average price per volume as computed in New Jersey Library Statistics for the preceding calendar year. Add resulting figure to number of volumes purchased. The total of the two figures should be equal to or exceed the minimum requirement of 1/10 volume.

(c) Each library shall purchase or provide indexes and back issues as set forth in Chart B below.

#### Chart B

##### Periodical Holdings

	Number Listed in	Number Retained
	Indexes Any	for Three Years
	Format	Any Format
<u>Population</u>	<u>(Include Online)</u>	<u>(Include Online)</u>
0-5,000	15	8
5,000- 9,999	30	17

	Number Listed in Indexes Any Format	Number Retained for Three Years Any Format
<u>Population</u>	<u>(Include Online)</u>	<u>(Include Online)</u>
10,000- 24,999	45	25
25,000- 49,999	60	33
50,000 and over	90	50

1. Each library shall provide the index or indexes that are necessary to provide access to information contained within the periodicals, or subscribe or have access to an on-line, full-text database. These indexes may be hard copy subscriptions, electronic services purchased or leased by the library or an online database that indexes periodicals.]

[(d)] **(b)** (No change in text.)

[(e)] **(c)** Those libraries [which] **that** are in municipalities providing tax support for a county library may count the materials provided by the county library to the local library toward meeting the requirements [of] **at** (a)[, (b) and (c)] above. The materials provided can be used to satisfy the requirements for [volumes purchased,] minimum collection[, and periodical subscriptions and holdings] by the exact number provided by the county library in each category.



(a) The following concerns hours of service:

1. (No change.)

2. Minimum hours open to the public must be scheduled to provide some service five days per week [with a minimum of three evenings and some] **to include some evening and/or** weekend hours every week. [Variations are permitted as long as the minimum hours open per year standard is met as set forth in Chart C above, or as authorized by the State Librarian.]

3. Libraries serving communities of under 7,500 population must meet the minimum requirement of 30 hours per week. [However, the 30 hours may be scheduled to provide only two instead of three evenings per week.]

(b) (No change.)

(c) Libraries shall provide knowledgeable service.

1. All public libraries must certify that [a member or] **all** members of the staff who do not hold a New Jersey State Professional Librarian Certificate and are counted to meet the minimum requirements [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.4(a) [has or collectively] have received, annually, a minimum of **four hours of** library-related education [as set forth in Chart D below].

[Chart D

Annual Minimum Hours of Library Related Continuing Education

Population Category	Training for Professionals <sup>a</sup>	Training for All Other Staff <sup>b</sup>
0-3,999	0	3

Population Category	Training for Professionals <sup>a</sup>	Training for All Other Staff <sup>b</sup>
4,000-4,999	0	6
5,000-7,499	0	6
7,500-7,999	7	3
8,000-11,999	7	6
12,000-15,999	7	9
16,000-19,999	7	12
20,000-23,999	14	12

<sup>a</sup>To continue beyond the listed population of 23,999, multiply the number of professional FTE from Chart A (column 2) times seven hours.

<sup>b</sup>To continue beyond the listed population of 23,999, multiply the number of all other staff FTE from Chart A (column 3) times three hours.]

2. All public libraries must certify that [a] **each** member [or members] of the staff who holds a New Jersey State Professional Librarian Certificate and are counted to meet the minimum requirements [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.4(a) has [or collectively have] received annually a minimum of **six hours of** library-related education [as required in Chart D above].

3. (No change.)

15:21-2.7 Reduction of aid for failure to meet minimum requirements

(a) Failure to meet the requirements [of] **at** N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.2 and 2.3 will result in the loss of all per capita State Aid (PCSA).

(b) Failure to meet the requirements specified [in] **at** N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.4 [through], **2.5, and 2.6** will result in the loss of PCSA by a percentage in proportion to the number of requirements not yet achieved, each requirement to have the following weights (not to exceed 100 percent):

1. N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.4(a):

i. Employees: [50] **25** percent.

2. N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.5:

i. Basic book collection: [50] **25** percent.

[ii. Annual purchases: 50 percent.

iii. Periodicals: 50 percent.]

[iv.] **ii.** (No change in text.)

3. N.J.A.C. 15:21-2.6:

i. Hours of service: [50] **25** percent.

ii. Extended Service: [50] **25** percent.

iii. Knowledgeable Service: [50] **25** percent.

Chart E

(No change.)

15:21-2.8 Use of per capita aid; decision by public library board of trustees or county library officials

(a) State Aid must be used for library purposes. Upon receipt of State Aid checks pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:74-3, municipal and county treasurers shall make these funds immediately available to public library trustees, county library commissioners, or the board of [chosen freeholders] **county commissioners**. Decisions on the use and expenditures of per capita State Aid rest with the board of trustees of municipal, joint, and association libraries and with the county library commission of the county libraries, or the county board of [chosen freeholders] **county commissioners**. The State Librarian may require a certified audit if he or she deems necessary.

(b) State Aid funds must be expended within two years of the date of receipt of the funds. If not expended, the board of trustees, the county library commission, or the board of [chosen freeholders] **county commissioners** must submit to the State Librarian, a plan for the use of the unspent balances at least 60 days before the deadline for expenditure. Failure to submit such a plan, or disapproval of the plan by the State Librarian, shall result in the withholding of State Aid payments.

(c) In reviewing the plan, the State Librarian will give consideration to the following:

1. Priority for the use of balances for expenditures [which] **that** enable the library to comply with the provisions of this chapter; **and**

2. Demonstration that expenditures contribute to the provision of efficient and effective library services, including capital needs and facilities[;].

- [3. Inclusion of realistic, attainable, time-bounded objectives.]

**15:21-2.10 (Reserved)**

#### 15:21-2.11 Revision of criteria

The State Librarian shall review all State Library Aid rules every seven years and recommend appropriate revisions to the Secretary of State to ensure that libraries throughout the State [move toward the achievement of national standards and the development of] **develop** appropriate library service. [The State Library Advisory Council may recommend appropriate revisions to the State Librarian.]

#### 15:21-2.12 State Library Aid application

(a) An application form is available at the following address:

New Jersey State Library

Per Capita State Aid

185 West State Street

PO Box 520

Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0520

or by email: **[grants@njstatelib.org](mailto:grants@njstatelib.org)**

**SUBCHAPTER 4. (RESERVED)**

**SUBCHAPTER 5. (RESERVED)**

**SUBCHAPTER 9. (RESERVED)**

**SUBCHAPTER 10. (RESERVED)**

**SUBCHAPTER 11. (RESERVED)**

SUBCHAPTER 12. MUNICIPAL ANNUAL MANDATORY LIBRARY APPROPRIATION  
FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF A FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

15:21-12.3 Definitions

As used in this [chapter] **subchapter**, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise, the following words and terms shall have the following meanings:

...

"Capital expense" means the funds appropriated to or required for furnishings, equipment (including computer hardware and software), and initial collections (print, non-print, electronic) for new buildings, building additions, or **structural** building renovations; periodic major projects such as the upgrade of computer **and/or network** hardware and software, and the replacement of roofs, **windows**, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems; and site acquisition, new buildings, and additions to or renovations of library buildings, **including those that promote energy efficiency and sustainability**.

...

"Eligible costs" means actual or fair market value of reasonable and necessary costs incurred in connection with the direct operation of a free public library to provide library services. Costs may include, but are not limited to, salaries, wages, and benefits for specially trained **or professional** library personnel to facilitate the purchasing, circulation and access of materials and information, **the delivery of programs**, and appropriately trained and credentialed management as well as support staff to directly support library personnel and technology and communication expenses. Other eligible costs include library materials **by purchase or lease**; required and routine maintenance for the library facility subject to these rules; equipment used for the provision of

library services; equipment or software purchased with a lease purchase agreement of less than five years; personnel and equipment that provide security for the library facility subject to these rules; furniture; technology and communication expenses related to the provision of library services; technology or communication expenditures related to wiring, telephones, Internet access, servers, personal computers, **mobile devices, scanners**, or software; capital expenses meeting the criteria as defined [in] **at** N.J.A.C. 15:21-12.5(c); and other expenditures directly related to the provision of library services or in support of such services. **Technology may include, but is not limited to, 3-D printers or other devices used to make or produce items, tangible or otherwise.**

...

"Equipment" means machines necessary to store, access, copy, or circulate information or cultural material; machines necessary to administer library functions and data collection, including, but not limited to, fiche and film readers, photocopy machines and electronic usage counters, electronic security, **mobile devices, cameras, scanners**, and computers.

...

"State Library" means the New Jersey State Library, which is affiliated with Thomas Edison State [College] **University** pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:73-26.