

**System Free Direct Access Plan to fulfill Commissioner's
Regulation 90.3(a) through (d)(4)
with North Country Library System (NCLS) Responses**
Deletions have strike-through. Additions are underlined.

1. Describe how all individuals residing within the boundaries of ~~the system~~ NCLS but outside a member public library's chartered service area will receive library services.

All ~~libraries within the North Country Library System~~ member libraries service area are members of our System, and receive county and state funding. In addition, a majority of our libraries receive money from a ~~successful school~~ successful school ballot votes. ~~School~~ Ballot-based and county funding is supported by taxpayers throughout the entirety of each area. Therefore, all persons within the North Country Library System service area contribute to the support of all libraries in the county and/or ~~school district~~ regional ballot votes and have a right to Free Access to library services.

2. Describe how ~~the system~~ NCLS will assure that those persons living within the system boundaries in an area where a member library chooses to withdraw from the system, ~~or where a chartered and registered library was never a member of the system,~~ will be served by the system.

Should a member library choose to withdraw from the System, patrons formerly served by that library will receive free service from all of the other libraries within our service area.

3. Describe what ~~the system~~ NCLS considers "serious inequities and hardships" and the criteria used by the system to make that determination.

The North Country Library System will annually tabulate the local per capita support received by member libraries.

We shall discard from the calculation the two highest and two lowest local per capita support reports, so as not to skew the average obtained.

Any of our member libraries which have a local per capita support that is less than 2/3 of the average support of the other libraries in the North Country Library System service area will be deemed to be operating under a hardship. To address this hardship, the North Country Library System will conduct planning workshops to prepare trustees from those member libraries to approach their local funding sources. They need to raise awareness of their dire fiscal situation and build a consensus in the village/town/school district officials to increase the support of the library.

4. Describe what constitutes excessive out of chartered service area borrowing in the system.

More than 20% of total circulation to patrons from outside a library's chartered service area would constitute excessive service. At this time, no member library has reported experiencing such a problem.

Should a library determine that 20% or more of its circulation is made to persons living outside of its service area, restrictions may be placed on those persons. A library may restrict the borrowing of new ~~books~~ materials defined as those purchased within the last twelve months. They may further restrict the loans of non-book materials, i.e. tapes, video and audio cassettes, CD's, DVD's, etc.

5. Describe the unserved and the underserved populations within the system.

There are no unserved or underserved populations within the System Service Area. All persons within our Service area have Free Access to any and all member libraries.

6. Describe the criteria used by the system to identify libraries as having an inadequate level of local income to support the delivery of acceptable library services (underserved). List those libraries so identified.

The Minimum Public Library Standards as defined by the Commissioner's Regulation 90.2 is used to determine the acceptable level of library services. All of our libraries meet those standards.

7. Describe the actions the system will take to expand the availability of library services to unserved and underserved individual residing within the boundaries of the system.

The North Country Library System and member libraries focus on publicity and informing the public of the free services offered. We know of no unserved or underserved individuals who are without library services, except by their own choice.

8. Provide a timetable for such actions.

Moot.

9. Identify who will be responsible for carrying out these actions.

Moot.

10. Describe the conditions under which modifications to the free direct access plan can be made:

- a) Without the prior approval of the Commissioner of Education
- b) With the prior approval of the Commissioner of Education

We have no intention of making any modifications to the Free Direct Access Plan.

11. Describe how the system will assure that member libraries are complying with the system free direct access plan approved by a majority of member libraries.

If the North Country Library System is aware of a member library which does not comply with ~~the System's~~ this Free Access Plan, the North Country Library System will work with the board to discuss the importance of, and ensure their agreement with, ~~the System~~ this Free Direct Access Plan. If an agreement for compliance with ~~the System~~ this Free Direct Access Plan cannot be reached, all NCLS services will be eliminated for the library in question.

12. Describe how the system obtained member library input to the plan for free direct access.

~~The North Country Library System Free Direct Access Plan was emailed to all member libraries and each library's board of trustees was expected to review and discuss the plan. Also, the member libraries had an opportunity to discuss the North Country Library System Free Direct Access Plan at the Directors Organization Meeting.~~

The North Country Public Library Directors Organization (NCPLDO) appointed a Plan of Service Committee that reviewed the Free Access Plan. The revised document was emailed to Directors and mailed to Board Presidents in July 2011, and discussed at a NCPLDO meeting in October 2011.