RAILS Board Committee Reports November 20, 2026

Advocacy Committee Report - Chair Emily Porter

The committee met on October 15, 2026. The revised RAILS Statement of Support for School Libraries and School Librarians was analyzed. The committee approved the statement for presentation to the RAILS Board at its October meeting. The development of a RAILS Advocacy Framework, supported by a subcommittee, was proposed. Harris provided updates on the status of the e-rate program, ALA National Library Legislative Day in 2027, and the four approved ILA legislative priorities. Marek provided an update on AISLE advocacy efforts, including school library compliance, the Illinois state per capita grant, and the SLATE census. The next meeting will be on December 17, 2026

Consortia Committee Report – Chair Megan Gove

The Consortia Committee met on Monday, November 9, 2026. The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2027. A warm thank you was expressed to Elizabeth Clarage, CARLI, for her years of service on the Consortia Committee. The new Committee members were introduced. A review of OCLC Services in Illinois included both challenges and highlights of the services provided. Several specific issues, along with potential questions to present to the Illinois State Library at the February 2027 meeting, were discussed. The federal E-Rate program was discussed, including its use by Illinois libraries to receive discounted Internet service, and current legal challenges and advocacy opportunities. PrairieCat shared their ongoing evaluation of Integrated Library System software product options submitted in response to their Request for Information.

The Consortial Delivery Data Working Group met on Monday, October 26, 2026, with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2027. The group reviewed the analysis Halter created and discussed, along with potential questions to present to the Illinois State Library at the February 2027 meeting, along with potential questions to present to the Illinois State Library at the February 2027 meeting, along with potential questions to present to the Illinois State Library at the February 2027 meeting, ow their ILS data compared to the information collected by the libraries during the months of August and September. For the next meeting, members will continue to refine their ILS data and send monthly reports for Halter to analyze.

Executive Committee Report – Chair Catherine Yanikoski

No meetings are scheduled.

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Nominating Committee Report – Chair Gwen Gregory

No meetings are scheduled.

Policy Committee Report – Chair Amanda Kowalcze

The next meeting will be on November 18, 2026.

Resource Sharing Committee Report – Chair Gwen Gregory

The next meeting will be on December 14, 2026

Universal Service Committee Report – Jennifer Cutshall

The next meeting will be on December 4, 2026