

Allentown District Five Year Plan 2025-2030

Mission Statement:

The Allentown District Library Center (ADLC) is dedicated to supporting and guiding the libraries of Lehigh and Carbon Counties by fostering collaboration, resource-sharing, and ongoing professional development. ADLC coordinates the allocation of state-provided District funds to ensure that resources and services are accessible to all residents and taxpayers. By providing valuable databases, resources, and continuing education opportunities, and offering leadership and direction, ADLC empowers District libraries to deliver the highest quality service to their patrons.

Participating Libraries

Carbon County

- Dimmick Memorial Library
 - Penn-Kidder (Branch)
- Lehigh Area Memorial Library
- Palmerton Area Library

Lehigh County

- Allentown Public Library
- Public Library of Catasauqua
- Coplay Public Library
- Emmaus Public Library
- Lower Macungie Library
- Parkland Community Library
- Slatington Library
- Southern Lehigh Public Library
- Whitehall Township Public Library

Affiliate Libraries

- Panther Valley Public Library (Non-State Aided)
- Weatherly Area Community Library (Non-State Aided)

Background

The Allentown District Library Center serves a population of 391,124 across 35 municipalities in Lehigh and Carbon Counties. However, five municipalities in the Weatherly School District, two in the Panther Valley School District, two Carbon County municipalities in the Hazleton Area School District, as well as the Northwestern Lehigh School District, are designated as unserved

areas. The Weatherly School District and Panther Valley School District are each served by a non-stated aided library.

In 2019, eleven district libraries formed the Lehigh Carbon Library Cooperative (LCLC), allowing patrons to access a shared collection with a single library card. The LCLC libraries established unified borrowing policies, billing standards, and card registration procedures, providing patrons with a seamless experience across all participating libraries.

In April 2024, resource sharing expanded further, including libraries from Allentown, Bethlehem, Easton, and Monroe County. This partnership, known as Multi-District Lehigh Valley Pocono Library Group, increased the catalog to over 1.4 million items, accessible to patrons through a coordinated delivery system.

Goal 1: Provide Administrative and Institutional Support

The Allentown District Library Center will offer guidance and support to ensure all district libraries' compliance with state laws and requirements.

Objectives:

- Be available to advise libraries on state laws, regulations, and requirements.
 - Assist libraries in meeting state standards and expectations to ensure the smooth operation of all facilities.
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Goal 2: Foster Collaboration

Encourage a collaborative environment where district libraries, resource-sharing libraries, and the community work together to improve services and efficiency.

Objectives:

- Facilitate regular interlibrary department meetings to foster the exchange of ideas, solutions, and best practices.
 - Offer guidance and support in strengthening relationships with municipalities and community organizations.
 - Develop and distribute shared marketing materials to promote district-wide services and events.
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Goal 3: Knowledge and Inspiration

Support ongoing learning and professional development for library staff to inspire innovation and improved service delivery.

Objectives:

- Coordinate and offer diverse learning opportunities for library staff, including workshops, training sessions, and conferences.
 - Funds may be designated in the District budget to take advantage of further educational opportunities, including allocations to subsidize staff attendance at statewide and national conferences
 - Maintain a district-wide professional collection of materials for staff development and research.
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Goal 4: Equitable and Inclusive Services

Ensure that all residents have equal access to high-quality resources, fostering an inclusive environment for learning and discovery.

Objectives:

- Provide access to a variety of digital materials and other resources that meet the needs of diverse communities.
 - Provide a sustainable delivery system between district libraries and resource-sharing libraries to ensure equitable resource availability across all district libraries to support lifelong learning for all patrons.
 - Coordinate and maintain Interlibrary Loan services.
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Goal 5: Funding

Secure and effectively manage financial resources to support district-wide initiatives and library operations.

Objectives:

- Secure and utilize district funds to ensure the continued success of library operations and resource-sharing efforts.
- Pursue grants and other funding opportunities to support district-wide initiatives and expand services for patrons.
- Provide guidance to libraries on alternate funding such as fundraising and grants.