



School Libraries Shine on All Learners

Though WE know this is true, many others don't.
Legislators don't commit funds to programs they don't understand or value.
WE must ADVOCATE for funding for libraries and library systems.
YOU can make a BIG difference! Read below to learn what YOU can DO!

Step 1: Learn about what's at stake: 2008 Legislative Priorities for Libraries in NY

- ☛ Make PERMANENT \$8 million in supplemental system aid included in the 2007-2008 state budget.
- ☛ Library System Aid- \$7.4 million in additional operating aid to bring every library system up to the 20% increase needed to close the gap created by inflation and years with zero increase.
- ☛ LIBRARY SYSTEMS: Flat funding and cuts for 15 years threaten survival of School Library Systems in NY.
- ☛ NOVEL DATABASES: \$5 million a year to sustain and improve NOVEL databases.
- ☛ LIBRARY MATERIALS AID: Increase from \$6.25 to \$10. Only 25 cent increase since 1998. Cost of books up 30% since '98.
- ☛ The Campaign for Fiscal Equity points to school libraries as agents of equitable access to quality information resources and learning opportunities.
- ☛ To learn more, visit these websites:
 - School Library Systems Advocacy Toolkit at <http://www.crbsls.org/slsa/>
 - New York Library Association at <http://www.nyla.org>

Step 2: Plan on participating in the Annual NYLA LIBRARY LOBBY DAY on March 11, 2008

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| ☛ When: 8:30 to 3:30 | ☛ Fee: NONE |
| ☛ Location: Albany, NY
Empire State Plaza Convention Center in Meeting Room 6 | ☛ Register Online: www.nyla.org |
| ☛ How will you participate?
By participating in appointments with Legislators. <i>The more PEOPLE we have advocating, the more they will listen!</i> | ☛ You can make your own appointments or join in with others who have already set them up. |
| | ☛ To find out more about your legislators, visit the School Library Systems Advocacy Toolkit Legislative Page at: <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ http://www.crbsls.org/slsa/legislative-issues/legi-contacts.html |

Step 3: Take 5 minutes each week for Advocacy

- ☛ Get IDEAS from the SLSA ADVOCACY TOOLKIT at <http://www.crbsls.org/slsa/> for:
 - Collecting TESTIMONY about the value of school libraries & school library systems
 - Legislative Contact Information
 - Lots of other ideas & links
- ☛ Use YELLOW paper and/or SUNFLOWER images to generate an avalanche of messages to budget decision makers. Sunflower images can be found using clipart or at www.wswhebores.org/sls/sunflowerimages.htm
- ☛ Write emails; send letters; submit testimony to your School Library System.
- ☛ CALL your legislator, majority and minority leadership, and Heads of the following committees: Education, Library, Technology, & Finance

