

**SB**

**119**

**HFIN**

**FILE**

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred to Committee: March 17, 2008

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4/10/08

The FINANCE Committee considered:

CSSB 119(RLS)

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 119(RLS)

SCHOOL LIBRARY GRANTS

"An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."

Recommends it be replaced with  HCS or  CS for SB 119 (Fin)  
 For Senate Bills with new title:  Technical Title  New Title: HCR \_\_\_\_\_  Same Title  New Title

- attach amendments
- add new referral to \_\_\_\_\_ Committee
- Letter of Intent \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

List of Abbrev for Depts.:

- ADM
- CED
- COR
- CRT
- EED
- DEC
- DFG
- GOV
- ISS
- LWF
- LAW
- LEG
- MVA
- DNR
- DPS
- REV
- DOT
- UA

<u>NEW FISCAL NOTES</u>				
*Assigned by Chief Clerk's Office				
List by Dept(s):	*FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero

<u>PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTES</u>				
List by Dept(s):	FN#	Fiscal	Indet.	Zero
FED	3		✓	
SRLS	4		✓	

<u>Signing with recommendations</u>	Printed Last Name	DP	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Mike Hunter</i>	Hawker	*			
<i>Harry Crawford</i>	CRAWFORD	*			
<i>Mary Nelson</i>	Joule	*			
<i>Paula</i>	NELSON	*			
<i>Paula</i>	Grawa	x			
<i>William Kelly</i>	STUTTS	x			
<i>William Kelly</i>	Joule	*			
<i>William Kelly</i>	KELLY			x	
Chair: <i>William Kelly</i>	Meyer	x			
Chair: <i>William Kelly</i>	ChewAul	x			

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 4  
Bill Version: CSSB 119(RLS)  
(S) Publish Date: 2/27/08

Identifier (file name): CSSB 119 Dept. Affected: DCCED  
Title: School Library Grants RDU: Comm Asst & Ec Dev (405)  
Component: Community & Regional Affairs  
Sponsor: Olson  
Requester: (S) Rules Committee Component Number: 2879

## Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims								
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>		.	.	.	.	.	.	.

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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## FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>		.	.	.	.	.	.	.

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 00

### POSITIONS

Full-time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Part-time								
Temporary								

### ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation creates two grant programs for libraries.

1) The public school library collection development grant program which would award up to \$3,000 grants to eligible public school libraries to expand and improve their library collections. There are between 300-400 libraries which could apply for grants should the program be funded. The program will be administered by the Department of Education and Early Development.

Continued on Page 2

Prepared by: SENATE RULES COMMITTEE  
Division: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by: /s/ Senator Stevens, Chair

Phone 465-3770  
Date/Time 2/26/08 10:56 a.m  
Date 2/26/2008

FISCAL NOTE # 4

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. CSSB 119

ANALYSIS CONTINUATION

2) The library construction and major expansion matching grant program, administered by the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development. Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50% of the total proposed grant project costs. In order to be eligible for a matching grant, the library must be publicly owned and operated and must be in a community with a population less than 10,000. Because the amount of the matching grant awards is indeterminate, an estimate cannot be provided as to the impact on the General Fund. At present, no money has been appropriated and no funds are included in the FY09 budget. Therefore, no additional staff or supplies are needed at this time.

# FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA  
2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 3  
Bill Version: CSSB 119(RLS)  
(S) Publish Date: 2/27/08

Identifier (file name): CSSB 119: SB119-DEED-LAM-02-19-08 Dept. Affected: Education & Early Development  
Title: An act establishing a grant program to support public school RDU: Libraries, Archives & Museums  
Component: Libraries  
Sponsor: Senator Olson  
Requester: Senate Rules Component Number: 208

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	Appropriation Required	Information						
		FY 2009	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	FY 2013	FY 2014
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>								
Personal Services	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Travel								
Contractual								
Supplies								
Equipment								
Land & Structures								
Grants & Claims	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Miscellaneous								
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>								
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<b>CHANGE IN REVENUES ( )</b>								
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**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts								
1003 GF Match								
1004 GF								
1005 GF/Program Receipts								
1037 GF/Mental Health								
Other Interagency Receipts								
<b>TOTAL</b>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

Estimate of any current year (FY2008) cost: 00

**POSITIONS**

Full-time	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Part-time								
Temporary								

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This legislation establishes a public school library collection development grant program which would award grants to eligible public school libraries to expand and improve their library collections.

The Department of Education and Early Development is submitting an indeterminate fiscal note for CSSB 119. Depending on the appropriation by the legislature, the amount could range from 0 to \$1,200,000, since a maximum of 400 school libraries might qualify and apply for grants under the program.

If the grant program is funded, the Department of Education and Early Development may need to request a position to administer the grant program.

Prepared by: Richard Luther  
Division: Commissioner's Office  
Approved by: Barbara Thompson, Interim Commissioner

Phone: 465-2803  
Date/Time: 2/19/08 1:15 PM  
Date: 2/19/2008

25-LS0749\V  
Mischel  
3/19/08

*replaced 4/10*

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 119( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

RECEIVED  
MAR 19 2008

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR OLSON

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 \* Section 1. AS 14.56.300 is amended to read:

4       Sec. 14.56.300. Library assistance grant program [FUND]. There is  
5 established in the department a library assistance grant program [FUND]. From  
6 legislative appropriations [TO THE FUND], the department shall make grants to  
7 eligible libraries for public library operations, for interlibrary cooperation, or for  
8 regional library services.

9 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to article 5 to read:

10       Sec. 14.56.355. Library construction and major expansion matching grant  
11 program. (a) There is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and  
12 Economic Development a matching grant program for library construction and major  
13 expansion.

14       (b) A person in charge of construction or major expansion of an eligible  
15 library may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by

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the department.

(c) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.

(d) In this section,

(1) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development;

(2) "major expansion" means an expansion of an existing library to increase the square footage of the structure by not less than 30 percent.

**Sec. 14.56.356. Eligibility and matching funds.** (a) To be eligible for a grant under AS 14.56.355, a library must

(1) be publicly owned and operated by a municipality, as that term is defined under AS 01.10.060, or organized under federal law as an Indian reserve that existed before enactment of 43 U.S.C. 1618(a) and continued under that subsection;

(2) be located in a municipality or Indian reserve with a population of less than 10,000 persons; and

(3) be a public library as described in AS 14.56.400 that is not a public school library.

(b) An applicant for a grant under AS 14.56.355 must provide matching funds from

(1) the municipality or Indian reserve in an amount not less than 20 percent of the total proposed grant project costs; and

(2) private donors in an amount not less than the amount remaining of the total proposed grant project costs after the state and local contributions are made toward the project.

\* Sec. 3. AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to read:

**Article 5A. Public School Library Collection Development Grants.**

**Sec. 14.56.360. Public school library collection development grants.** (a) There is established in the department a public school library collection development grant program.

(b) The person or division in charge of the state library shall award and administer grants of not more than \$3,000 for a fiscal year for use by a public school

1 library eligible under AS 14.56.365 to expand and improve the library collection to  
2 include relevant and current reading materials.

3 (c) If money appropriated for the program is insufficient to fund all eligible  
4 grant requests submitted under AS 14.56.365, the available funding shall be awarded  
5 to the highest ranked applicants, according to criteria established by the department in  
6 regulation.

7 **Sec. 14.56.365. Eligibility.** (a) A library eligible for a grant under  
8 AS 14.56.360 must be a public school library established and supported by a school  
9 district that

10 (1) provides physical space or, if a correspondence school operated by  
11 a school district, resources for use as a library;

12 (2) provides regularly scheduled library hours for all students enrolled  
13 in the school;

14 (3) provides designated library personnel to staff the library;

15 (4) provides acceptable evidence of the promotion of library and  
16 information literacy standards;

17 (5) maintains an annual library budget that includes library staffing and  
18 materials; and

19 (6) contributes, from the school district's budget, an amount that is not  
20 less than the grant award that is paid for library collection materials or contributes in-  
21 kind value of services.

22 (b) The department may establish by regulation an application and review  
23 procedure, including requirements for submission of adequate documentation to prove  
24 eligibility under this section. Documentation must include submission of library class  
25 schedules, job descriptions for library staff, and a copy of an annual budget for the  
26 library.

27 **Sec. 14.56.370. Eligible expenditures.** (a) A library collection development  
28 grant may be used only to purchase library collection materials by a public school or  
29 by a school district if the district operates a correspondence program with an eligible  
30 school library. In this subsection, "library collection materials" means books,  
31 magazines, reference and audio-visual materials, and electronic subscriptions that

1 support school curriculum and student reading activities.

2 (b) A library collection development grant may not be used to supplant school  
3 district expenditures for the library or to purchase classroom materials, textbooks,  
4 testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software,  
5 or technology support.

6 Sec. 14.56.375. Report. A recipient of a grant awarded under AS 14.56.360  
7 shall prepare a brief annual report to the department describing the effects of the grant  
8 and whether all conditions of the grant were met or exceeded.

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA  
STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 514  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

(907) 465-3707  
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## SPONSOR STATEMENT

SB 119

"An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."

SB 119 establishes a public library construction grant program and a grant program for public school libraries to expand library collection materials.

Sections 1 and 2 of the bill establish the library construction and major expansion grant program. Subject to appropriation, the state would match up to 50% of the cost of new library construction or major expansion in communities with a population of 10,000 or less. The local government would be responsible for securing a match of at least 20% and the remainder can be provided by private donors. The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will administer the grants and promulgate regulations to establish ranking criteria.

Section 3 establishes a maximum grant of \$3,000 for a fiscal year to a public school library deemed eligible by the grants administrator who will be the person or division in charge of the state library. Use of the funds is limited to expansion of the library collection materials, meaning books, magazines, reference and audio-visual material, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum and student reading activities. This grant program will also provide the means to update materials such as atlases, almanacs, encyclopedias, as well as provide accurate information on advances in science, changes in health issues, career opportunities and recent political issues.

If the funds appropriated for this grant program are not sufficient to fund all eligible grant requests, the available funds shall be awarded to the highest ranked applicants, according to criteria established by the department in regulation.

Individual school library budgets are generally determined by principals and vary widely from district to district and even within each district. Alaskan educational budget shortfalls have impacted schools and school libraries throughout our state. Some school libraries in our state can only participate in reading incentive programs like "Battle of the Books" by using interlibrary loan to borrow the books for their students. It is sad to report that some libraries have no budget at all for new materials.

SB 119 will support Alaskan teachers' and librarians' efforts to produce more fluent and proficient readers at all grade levels. This long-term investment in school library infrastructure will benefit our Alaskan youth and future leaders. I urge you to give favorable consideration to this bill.

Roz Goodman  
P.O. Box 47001  
Pedro Bay, AK 99647  
Home Phone: 907-850-3011  
Phone on January 30<sup>th</sup> 907-294-2210  
roz99647@yahoo.com  
March 27, 2008

House Finance Committee  
State Capitol  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee,

On Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, I hope to testify on behalf of SB 119, "An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries". The following is my complete testimony.

My name is Roz Goodman. I have been a School Librarian or District Media Specialist for thirty-six years. For twenty years I was employed by Chatham, Kodiak Island Borough, Bering Strait and Southwest Region school districts. In 2000 I retired but continue to provide consulting services to a number of rural school districts including Lake and Peninsula, Pribilof Island, Bering Strait, Southwest Region, Yukon Flats, Lower Yukon, and Kuspuk.

Based on my personal experience, I can tell you that school library collections in rural Alaska schools are sorely in need of updating to support and enhance current curricula and even more important to meet the informational needs and pleasure reading interests of K-12 students. Senate Bill 119 will enable school districts or individual schools to annually apply for grant funds specifically earmarked to improve school library collections.

Throughout the last ten years, a substantial amount of research conducted by library professionals, educators and reading experts acknowledges the correlation between reading success and library collections which support school curricula and standards. These studies also emphasize the importance of library collections which include books and other resources which students can and will want to read. It is hard to understand why there is such a disconnect between what the research says and the amount of funding districts and schools appropriate to adequately maintain quality and relevant library collections.

- School Library Impact studies conducted by Keith Curry Lance (including the 1999 Alaska study) show that reading test scores increase when the number of books and magazine subscriptions increase and library expenditures per student increase. School libraries enhance student learning and academic performance particularly when library resources meet curriculum and students needs.
- Numerous studies by reading expert Stephen Krashen indicate that in addition to skills, students need to be motivated to read and that motivation comes from access to books that a student can read and is interested in reading. Kids who read more, read better. Reading scores are improved and sustained when students are hooked into reading for fun. School library quality is a significant predictor of reading ability and comprehension scores. Libraries are a major source of reading for children.
- Studies by Mary Gaver, Warwick Elley and Francis Mangubhai show that the number of resources in the school library is a powerful predictor of reading scores. Children in schools with

larger library collections make better gains in reading than children in schools with smaller collection who in turn make better grades than children in schools with no library collections.

- Observations and informal studies by Michael Sullivan, Director of the Weeks Public Library in Greenland, NH confirm that boys (and in particular teenage boys) need books of interest to motivate them to read. Attracting boys to library resources in the "tween" years will go a long way in maintaining their interest in books and reading over a lifetime, creating good habits from a young age.

Based on my work in numerous rural school libraries throughout the state, I can honestly say that each and every one would benefit greatly from an infusion of new books and other relevant library resources. I would like to share with you my observations of the school library collections I have seen.

The collections:

- Are extremely outdated and not in sync with current state and local school district standards and curricula for all K-12 levels.
- For the most part do not coincide with the reading levels students are at or what students are interested in reading.
- Have not been adequately infused with new books and other resources on a regular basis since the original collections were purchased at the time the schools were built in the late 1970's and early 1980's.
- Lack basic reference books (encyclopedias, globes, atlases, almanacs) with copyright dates later than 2000.
- Include many donated titles that don't belong in a school library collection, are marked DISCARD from other libraries, lack attractive covers, and show plenty of wear and tear.
- Might contain impressive numbers of books but 50% to 75% lack relevancy to a school library collection and should be discarded based on standard weeding criteria and procedures. There might be quantity but there is definitely a lack of quality and relevancy.

Although one could argue that school districts or individual schools should have funds to annually purchase new library resources, the reality is that school library budgets, if they exist at all are:

- Often funded with "budget crumbs" (left over money that is not identified until the end of the school year), book fairs and donations rather than a realistic and annual per student formula.
- Under funded as documented in a recent survey conducted by the Alaska State Library which shows that the average per student amount spent on the library is \$8.24/student which is about one new book for every two to three students.
- Typically decreased rather than increased each year or if increased are not increased enough to cover the rising cost of books and other resources.
- Inadequate to replace outdated or well worn resources with newer titles or replacement copies as the cost of books increases. A title that originally cost \$5-\$10 now costs \$18-\$22.
- Dependent on the support of current administrators and/or teachers which can change from year to year. As a result, school library collections stagnate or improve on the whim of the current staff rather than on the need to provide current and quality learning resources for students.

In my opinion, support for and the passage of *an Act relating to grant programs to support libraries* will lead to many positive outcomes for students throughout the state.

This grant program will:

- Assure that students (as well as other community members in communities where there are no bookstores or other libraries) have access to new books and other current library resources.
- Encourage students to value, get excited about, and spend time reading books.
- Acknowledge and financially support current research and best practice which indicates that quality school library collections increase student interest in reading and encourage students to become better readers.
- Provide an incentive for ALL districts and schools to put money into quality library collections each year.
- Assure that a certain minimum amount of funds is spent on improving school library collections every year in every school.

In conclusion, I would like to invite each of you to visit one or more of the school libraries in each of the communities you represent and evaluate for yourself the current state of their library collections.

- Talk with students to find out what kinds of books they like to read. Then see if the library has those books.
- Peruse the fiction shelves and see how many books look current or appealing.
- Pull out a few books from the science and/or history sections and check the copyright dates.
- Look at the reference collection and check the copyright dates of encyclopedia sets and atlases.
- Talk with teachers and find out if the books and other library resources are adequate to support and enhance what they teach in the classroom.

With all the emphasis on reading improvement in No Child Left Behind at the federal level and the importance of having students meet state and district benchmarks and standards in reading, we need to show students that their reading and learning is important by providing good, interesting, up-to-date reading, reference and research resources they can access from their school libraries.

The collections in school libraries play a vital role in enhancing student learning and academic performance. Providing students access to a wide variety of resources they can read for pleasure or to find answers to questions is a step in the right direction toward encouraging students to become better readers and independent life long learners.

The passage of *an Act relating to grant programs to support libraries* would help make this happen. I urge you to support the passage of this act.

Sincerely,

Roz Goodman

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

SENATOR DONALD C. OLSON



ALASKA  
STATE CAPITOL  
ROOM 514  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99801-1182

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## CS SB 119

### Sectional Analysis

**Sections 1 and 2** – establish the library construction and major expansion grant program. Subject to appropriation, the state would match up to 50% of the cost of new library construction or major expansion in communities with a population of 10,000 or less. The local government would be responsible for securing a match of at least 20% and the remainder can be provided by private donors. The Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development will administer the grants and promulgate regulations to establish ranking criteria.

**Section 3** – adds a new section to AS 14.56 State and community Libraries, by establishing a maximum grant of \$3,000 for a fiscal year to a public school library that is deemed eligible by the grants administrator. The grants administrator will be the person or division in charge of the state library. The act allows grants to public schools and to school districts that operate correspondence programs with resources for use as a library.

The funds are to be used for expanding the library collection materials, meaning books, magazines, reference and audio-visual material, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum and student reading activities. Grant money awarded under this program may not be used to purchase classroom materials, textbooks, testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software, or technology support. The grant is established in the Department of Education.

Grant recipients are required to prepare an annual report to the department describing the effects of the grant and whether all conditions of the grant were met or exceeded.

If the funds appropriated for this grant program are not sufficient to fund all eligible grant requests, the available funds shall be awarded to the highest ranked applicants, according to criteria established by the department in regulation.

# LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES  
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY  
STATE OF ALASKA

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State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

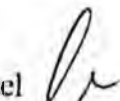
MAR 19 2008

## MEMORANDUM

March 14, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Eligibility for a library construction and major expansion matching grant in CSSB 119(RLS) (Work Order No. 25-LS0749\L)

**TO:** Senator Bert Stedman  
Attn: Darwin Peterson

**FROM:** Jean Mischel  
Legislative Counsel 

You asked two questions regarding the eligibility for a library construction and major expansion matching grant in AS 14.56.355 - 14.56.356 as presented in sec. 2 of CSSB 119(RLS). First, you asked whether an unincorporated community could be considered a public entity for purposes of owning a library that is "publicly owned and operated." Second, you asked whether a school district or rural educational attendance area (REAA) could qualify for a grant.

With regard to the first question, the phrase "publicly owned and operated" is not defined for purposes of the bill, and is subject to interpretation. However, AS 14.56.356(b)(1) requires a contribution from a "local government entity." This phrase is also subject to interpretation. Substituting "municipality" for this phrase in AS 14.56.356(b)(1) might avoid questions of interpretation, as this word is defined in AS 01.10.060.

With regard to the second question, I believe that it is possible for a school district or REAA to own and operate a library and that the library may be considered to be "publicly owned and operated." However, eligibility also requires an applicant for a grant to provide matching funds, a requirement that may be more difficult to satisfy under the local contribution limits for schools.

DMB:med  
08-186.med

## **Senate Bill 119: Why the State Library Should Administer This Bill**

The Alaska Association of School Librarians, (AkASL), believes the State Library would be the most efficient and successful agency for handling the administrative concerns of this bill. State Librarian, Kay Shelton, along with librarians, Linda Thibodeau and Sue Sherif, are very much in tuned with school library issues and concerns.

Their offices work closely with school librarians around the state and keep us informed through list serves about all aspects of our jobs. They give endless hours of suggestions and support by telephone, email and on site visits.

The State Library initiates ongoing training for certified school librarians and Para-professionals around the state on an annual basis.

Additional monies must be calculated into this bill for a clerical person to administer the grant. There will be paper work to evaluate from school libraries interested in applying for this annual grant. Time will be necessary to review grant applications and annual reports, as well as administer and evaluate those applications by schools that apply for any unused money after the deadline for the initial grant.



## School Library Materials Budget Survey Results – January 2007

In school year 2004-05, the median budget for school libraries nationwide was \$9,368. The average budget in the Pacific Northwest was \$19,211. How does your school's library budget compare? This is the question that we asked Alaska school librarians and library aides in November, 2006. We received results from the end of November to late January 2007 from 151 respondents, representing about 165 public schools, or about one-third of Alaska's schools. The results showed that there is wide variation in budgets across the state and within single school districts. (Some schools did not fill out the complete form, and some answered for more than one school in a district, so the numbers do not total 165.)

### ALL SCHOOLS:

138 schools	\$8.32 per student
Average total budget	\$4,284 per school
Range	\$0 - \$25,000 *

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

71 schools	\$7.59 per student
Average total budget	\$2,707.08
Range	\$0 - \$8,520

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS:

18 schools	\$8.67
Average total budget	\$4,625.22
Range	\$1,500-\$10,000

### HIGH SCHOOLS:

32 schools	\$9.20
Average total budget	\$8,151
Range	\$0 - \$25,000

### K-12 SCHOOLS:

24 schools	\$7.03
Average total budget	\$3,397.61
Range	\$0-\$13,000**

\*One small K-12 school received a federal grant for \$75,000 for its 124 students. Because this is a one-time, competitive grant open to only a few Alaska school districts, it is not included.

\*\*The maximum K-12 amount represents the budget for 6 K-12 schools in one district.



ALASKA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ♦ P. O. BOX 81084, FAIRBANKS, AK 99708 ♦ WWW.AKLA.ORG

Senator Bettye Davis  
Health, Education and Social Services Committee  
State Capitol, Rm 30  
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

April 22, 2007

Dear Chairman Davis,

As a representative of the Alaska Library Association, I am writing in support of SB119, "An Act establishing a grant program to support public school libraries."

Part of the Alaska Library Association's mission is to support school libraries and librarians, because we recognize the role school libraries play in the success of Alaska's K-12 students. But school libraries are unable to properly fulfill this role if they are not stocked with adequate resources for educating all students.

Too often students are forced to use the local public library or other outside resources to complete school assignments. In rural areas where students do not have easy access to other libraries, students are much more dependent on their school libraries to provide them with up-to-date reference and research materials.

SB 119 would provide financial assistance to qualified school libraries seeking to correct deficiencies in their collections. Support would take the form of grants covering books, magazines, reference materials and electronic databases.

The Alaska Library Association believes that the best place for students to access curriculum-appropriate materials supporting school coursework is in their own school libraries. Please support this bill to improve school library collections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane F. Fuerstenau".

Jane Fuerstenau  
AkLA President

*Quality  
School Libraries...  
Because Student  
Achievement  
is the Bottom Line.*



## **Alaska Association of School Librarians**

<http://www.akla.org/akasl/>

The State Senate  
Alaska State Capital  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library materials the Alaska Association of School Librarians proposes an annual grant up to \$2,500 for active school libraries. This grant program would parallel the, already existing, state support of public libraries.

School library budgets vary widely from district to district. The crunch in educational funding has impacted school libraries throughout our state. Schools have seen budgets go lower and lower with some libraries having no budget at all for new materials. This annual grant would be an opportunity to level the playing field between rural and urban school libraries.

There are many students who are not in easy reach of a public library so the school library is their source for research, curriculum related projects, and encourage the love of reading. Some school libraries in our state are using interlibrary loan to borrow books for reading incentive programs like "Battle of the Books" as well as research for class projects. This annual grant will support our school's efforts to produce more proficient readers at all grade levels, foster the love of reading, and promote life long learning skills.

Because of the statewide push for school curriculum to support the Alaska Standards many districts are currently rewriting curriculum and course work. The educational needs from school district to school district vary widely. This annual grant would be an excellent way for individual school libraries to help support the unique curricular needs for their district by purchasing materials that will support the classroom curriculum. We envision this grant as a means to update materials such as atlases that reflect current world geography, almanacs, encyclopedias, advances in science, changes in health issues, career awareness and recent political issues. A variety of material formats including books, DVD's, audio books, periodicals and online databases would all be considered acceptable resources.

We believe Senate Bill 119 would be a long-term investment in the school infrastructure and would promote excellence in education for all districts for years to come.

Erika Drain (President)  
Alaska Association of School Librarians  
[erikad@mehs.us](mailto:erikad@mehs.us)

# Valdez City Schools

## HERMON HUTCHENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



P.O. Box 627 Valdez, Alaska 99686

Phone (907)835-4728

FAX (907)835-2047

Good Afternoon. My name is Roz Strang. I'm principal of Hermon Hutchens Elementary School in Valdez. I want to speak this afternoon to lend my support for SB 119. I can provide you a principal's view of the benefits of this bill and perhaps it will extend your insight.

As a principal, there are categories of importance to a school's overall needs. Libraries are right up there in the top category. They serve as resources when there may not be any others; they provide and reflect current literature and trends, they provide multi-media; they keep us connected with the outside world, they are a common gathering place where meetings are held and information is shared. Forgive me for the analogy, as I'm going to appeal to your stomach, but Libraries are really analogous to the kitchen in a home. We get fed there, we socialize there; we discuss important matters there; it sets the tone for the family... for my school, our library is the heart of our organization.

Now, any well-stocked kitchen can produce gourmet food. Unfortunately, many Alaskan schools have been living on left-overs and scraps for quite some time now, and despite what food we can stock, the menu has become a bit stark because of the meager provisions and spices that have lost their potency. A lot of the food has gone well beyond its expiration date. My father was a veteran of WWII. He spoke of the rations that were in England during his stint in the Army. Rationing comes to mind whenever I sit down to budget. Meager years bring meager meals, and although we have a marvelous librarian, she can only dish up what the budget allows. Spam only goes so far; and it isn't very inspiring, even when you call it a "Victory Meat."

This bill, however would be a victory for Alaska. We could enable Alaskan libraries to really start cooking once again. It would help us provide a well stocked library, one that is current and up to date. The additional financing would help schools stretch the meager funds they do have, and apply it where it counts...spoon-fed right into our kids. Some Alaskan communities have no library available to them, other than their school library. Bolstering libraries can stretch what financial resources we do have to feed the multitude. We want to do the best with what we have. SB 119 can help us do just that. \$3000 doesn't seem like much to a library budget. But it can be the extra spice that preserves the dish, or it could even be the special ingredient that gives the protein to the meal. It all helps, and in many cases, Alaska Schools desperately need it.

Please remember that well fed kids - that's both nutritionally and informationally, are kids that are prepared for the day - they achieve higher, have a better outlook, and are more creative than those who are not. Let's not starve our future. I encourage you to support Senate Bill 119.

March 24, 2008

Dear Members of the House Finance Committee;

My name is Julie Hursey and I am writing in support of Senate Bill 119, which supports the construction of public libraries in the State of Alaska.

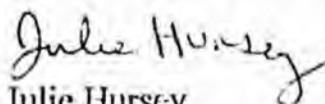
Thank you for considering this bill which would make it possible for communities like mine to realize our dream of a new library. With the state matching funds, we believe that we will be able to replace the leaking and overcrowded facility in Petersburg with a building which will serve our town well into the future.

Our community has been planning and working towards a new library for years. A poll last year showed that 86% of the people contacted were in favor of a new library. Our city council also has placed the project in the top four on the list of Petersburg's capital improvement projects. The council has already designated land for the new building.

We are planning to put a bond issue on the ballot this fall to raise funds through a temporary sales tax. We have been receiving donations from community groups and individuals, and are planning an active capital campaign as well. The state funding would be the cornerstone that would make it possible to begin construction.

Alaska has a budget surplus now which tops any time in the State's history. While it is prudent to put money aside for the future, this is also a good time for "Legacy" projects like libraries which will serve Alaska's future generations. Please support Senate Bill 119.

Thank you for your consideration,



Julie Hursey

President of Library Board  
Petersburg, Alaska

PO Box 213  
Petersburg, AK 99833  
907. 772. 3967

Proposed Public School Library Collection Development Grant Program 2006  
1/10/07

**Purpose:** To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library materials.

Public school libraries which meet the specified criteria will be awarded a \$2,500 supplemental grant.

**Need:** Public school library budgets vary widely between and within school districts. Due to this disparity many students do not have access to relevant, current materials.

Individual schools may apply yearly for the School Library Collection Development Grants if the school:

- provides physical space that can be identified as a library and is reserved for that purpose;
- provides regularly scheduled library hours for all students; \*
- provides designated library personnel to staff the library; \*
- provides evidence that library/information literacy standards are being promoted;
- maintains an ongoing library budget to include library staffing and materials with exemptions for special one-time grants; \*

\* Documentation will be required to validate:

library class schedules; library employee job description and level of training;  
evidence of ongoing district support of the library budget.

Public School Library Collection Development funds must be utilized to enhance the library collection rather than individual classrooms. Eligible purchases may include books, magazines, reference materials, and electronic subscriptions that support school curriculum or student reading activities.

Public School Library Collection Development funds may not be used to purchase: textbooks, testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software or tech support.

Grants would not fund district-level collections except for district correspondence programs that employ a full-time librarian.

A \$750 annual grant will be awarded to schools with less than 5 teachers.

A brief annual report documenting that grant guidelines were met, will be filed by each school at the end of the school year.

Initial grant monies not awarded will be distributed as an incentive grant to fund innovative school library programs.

The grant will be administered by the Alaska State Library, Library Development section. The grant program would fund adequate additional State Library personnel to process proposals and to monitor expenditures.

Estimated cost: \$885,000/year

## DCCED 2006 Certified Municipal Populations

Bettles	25
Kupreanof	32
Platinum	38
Akhiok	44
False Pass	54
Kasaan	59
Port Alexander	64
Pilot Point	66
Hughes	68
Clark's Point	69
Atka	73
Egegik	76
Port Heiden	79
Chignik	85
Cold Bay	87
Anvik	88
Koyukuk	88
Larsen Bay	90
Allakaket	94
Nikolai	98
Chuathbaluk	99
Pelican	106
Tenakee Springs	109
Diomedea	110
Eagle	110
Ekwok	111
Saint George	120
Shageluk	124
Kobuk	135
Deering	138
Wales	139
Adak	146
Golovin	154
Coffman Cove	162
Newhalen	167
Grayling	174
Ruby	183
Whittier	189
Old Harbor	192
Ouzinkie	193
Nondalton	196
Kaltag	199
Nunam Iqua	201
Holy Cross	204
Port Lions	211
Shaktoolik	214
Mekoryuk	217
White Mountain	224
Atkasuk	237
Nightmute	237
Aleknagik	241
Goodnews Bay	242

## DCCED 2006 Certified Municipal Populations

Teller	258
Huslia	259
Shungnak	260
Tanana	261
Lower Kalskag	269
Upper Kalskag	271
Ambler	277
Eek	287
Seldovia	287
Kaktovik	288
Nulato	290
Elim	294
Anaktuvuk Pass	299
McGrath	321
Brevig Mission	324
Russian Mission	329
Hydaburg	352
Akiak	367
Koyuk	368
Napakiak	370
Marshall	387
Kivalina	391
Kiana	401
Nuiqsut	417
Saxman	422
Manokotak	423
Gustavus	441
Saint Michael	446
Buckland	457
Kachemak	458
Chefornak	460
Saint Paul	460
Napaskiak	464
New Stuyahok	472
Angoon	482
Thorne Bay	482
Aniak	512
Wainwright	517
Scammon Bay	520
Anderson	536
Kake	536
Nunapitchuk	547
Saint Mary's	551
Nenana	553
Pilot Station	574
Fort Yukon	596
Toksook Bay	598
Kotlik	611
Stebbins	612
Shishmaref	615
Yakutat	634
Galena	636

## DCCED 2000 Certified Municipal Populations

Noorvik	636
Gambell	643
Quinhagak	648
Alakanuk	663
Savoonga	712
Kwethluk	721
Unalakleet	727
Point Hope	737
Akutan	741
Klawock	776
Togiak	783
Emmonak	796
Mountain Village	796
King Cove	807
Hoonah	829
Selawik	841
Skagway	854
Sand Point	890
Chevak	908
Delta Junction	1,039
<b>Bristol Bay Borough</b>	<b>1,060</b>
Craig	1,105
Hooper Bay	1,157
Houston	1,537
<b>Lake &amp; Peninsula Borough</b>	<b>1,557</b>
North Pole	1,710
Wrangell	1,911
<b>Denali Borough</b>	<b>2,052</b>
Cordova	2,211
<b>Haines Borough</b>	<b>2,241</b>
Dillingham	2,397
Seward	2,627
<b>Aleutians East Borough</b>	<b>2,643</b>
Kotzebue	3,104
Petersburg	3,129
Nome	3,540
Soldotna	3,807
Unalaska	3,940
Barrow	4,065
Valdez	4,353
Homer	5,454
Palmer	5,574
Bethel	5,812
Kodiak	5,937
Wasilla	6,775
<b>North Slope Borough</b>	<b>6,807</b>
Kenai	6,864
<b>Northwest Arctic Borough</b>	<b>7,373</b>
Ketchikan	7,662
<b>Sitka</b>	<b>8,833</b>
<b>Ketchikan Gateway Borough</b>	<b>13,174</b>
<b>Kodiak Island Borough</b>	<b>13,506</b>

## DCCED 2006 Certified Municipal Populations

Fairbanks	30,552
Juneau	30,650
Kenai Peninsula Borough	51,350
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	77,174
Fairbanks North Star Borough	96,888
Anchorage	282,813

## **It's impossible to put a price on creating a nation of lifelong learners**

**By Brian Kenney, Editor-in-Chief -- School Library Journal, 3/1/2007**

First the good news. The average price of most children's and young adult books hasn't gone up. In fact, it's slightly declined. Now the bad news. Adult titles—especially hardcover and paperback nonfiction—have shot up significantly. That increase makes it especially hard on high school librarians and public librarians who are creating young adult collections.

But today's librarians face an even bigger challenge.

In October 1978, when *SLJ* started tracking those figures, we wanted to help librarians develop sufficient budgets and give them enough ammunition to fight for more funds. That hasn't changed. Back then, there were plenty of demands on school library budgets besides books—think audio and video. It's no different now—just add technology to the mix.

What *is* different is what's being published. Now there's so much more to offer that you can guarantee there's a book out there to interest each and every one of your readers, reluctant or not.

If you don't believe me, consider the books we reviewed in this issue alone.

Just when you thought fantasy had gone as far as possible, along comes Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Scholastic), an innovative blend of brilliant illustrations and an irresistible story—as well as two other absolutely terrific fantasy novels.

Need a strong dose of reality? This month's reviews feature four picture books that tackle one of the toughest topics: death (of a mother, a sibling, a friend, and a pet). There are also novels that embrace social issues, like abusive parents. In nonfiction, there are important books on the perilous state of the Earth's ecology, such as Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth* (Viking). If that isn't a book that kids need to read, I don't know what is.

If you're faced with some unwilling readers (and who isn't?), check out Kathleen Baxter's latest Nonfiction Booktalker column, "Gross Them Out," on page 38. Every librarian could use a copy of Jeff Szpirglas's *Gross Universe: Your Guide to All Disgusting Things Under the Sun* (Maple Tree, 2006) to wow the after-school crowd.

Publishers are doing their job. Now it's our turn. As Trev Jones, *SLJ*'s book review editor, put it: "There's a need for variety and diversity—in terms of what children can appreciate and understand, in their reading abilities, and in their levels of sophistication

and maturity. Libraries must cover all the bases if they're going to serve all of their children—and to do so, they must fight for funding.”

It's time to persuade parents and teachers, principals and directors, school boards and boards of trustees to reach for their wallets. Tell them about the wealth of resources nearly within our grasp—great historical fiction about the Civil War, biographies of sports legends, and books about dinosaur poop. Let them know that this is what's required to raise a nation of learners, one book, one reader at a time.

*SLJ's Average Book Prices 2007*

	2005	2006	2007
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**Children's and YA titles: Hardcover**

Average price (all titles)	\$20.52	\$21.60	\$20.82
Preschool to grade four	\$18.92	\$21.60	\$18.70
Grade five and up (fiction)	\$16.85	\$16.87	\$17.24
Grade five and up (nonfiction)	\$24.92	\$26.81	\$26.68

Source: *School Library Journal*

**Adult titles: Hardcover**

Fiction (excluding special editions, etc.)	\$24.95	\$26.83*	—
Nonfiction	\$36.86	\$42.32*	—
**Nonfiction	\$70.72	\$85.91*	—

**Adult titles: Paperback (excluding mass market)**

Fiction	\$18.63	\$17.05*	—
***Nonfiction	\$33.81	\$44.54*	—

Source: *Bowker's Books in Print*

\* Preliminary prices.

\*\* Prices include single-volume reference titles.

\*\*\* Prices include reference and related resources.

The prices for children's and YA titles are based on books published in the first half of 2007. Adult 2006 prices are based on 2005 data. For children's and YA trade paperbacks, an informal survey of several publishers placed the average price at \$8.95.

[bkenney@reedbusiness.com](mailto:bkenney@reedbusiness.com)

By Mark Herring. From the April 2001 American Libraries, p. 76-78.

**ALA** American  
Library  
Association

## 10 Reasons Why the Internet Is No Substitute for a Library

By Mark Y. Herring

*Dean of library services  
Dacus Library  
Winthrop University  
Rock Hill, South Carolina*

Reading, said the great English essayist Matthew Arnold, "is culture." Given the condition of reading test scores among school children nationwide, it isn't surprising to find both our nation and our culture in trouble. Further, the rush to Internetize all schools, particularly K-12, adds to our downward spiral. If it were not for the Harry Potter books one might lose all hope who languishes here. Then, suddenly, you realize libraries really are in trouble, grave danger, when important higher-education officials opine, "Don't you know the Internet has made libraries obsolete?" Gadzooks! as Harry himself might say.

In an effort to save our culture, strike a blow for reading, and, above all, correct the well-intentioned but horribly misguided notions about what is fast becoming Intertopia among many nonlibrarian bean counters, here are 10 reasons why the Internet is no substitute for a library.



### Not Everything Is on the Internet

With over one billion Web pages you couldn't tell it by looking. Nevertheless, very few *substantive* materials are on the Internet *for free*. For example, only about 8% of all journals are on the Web, and an even smaller fraction of books are there. Both are costly! If you want the *Journal of Biochemistry*, *Physics Today*, *Journal of American History*, you'll pay, and to the tune of hundreds of thousands of dollars.



## **The Needle (Your Search) in the Haystack (the Web)**

The Internet is like a vast uncataloged library. Whether you're using Hotbot, Lycos, Dogpile, Infoseek, or any one of a dozen other search or metasearch engines, you're not searching the entire Web. Sites often promise to search everything but they can't deliver. Moreover, what they do search is not updated daily, weekly, or even monthly, regardless of what's advertised. If a librarian told you, "Here are 10 articles on Native Americans. We have 40 others but we're not going to let you see them, not now, not yet, not until you've tried another search in another library," you'd throw a fit. The Internet does this routinely and no one seems to mind.



## **Quality Control Doesn't Exist**

Yes, we need the Internet, but in addition to all the scientific, medical, and historical information (when accurate), there is also a cesspool of waste. When young people aren't getting their sex education off XXX-rated sites, they're learning politics from the Freeman Web page, or race relations from Klan sites. There is no quality control on the Web, and there isn't likely to be any. Unlike libraries where vanity press publications are rarely, if ever, collected, vanity is often what drives the Internet. Any fool can put up anything on the Web, and, to my accounting, all have.



## **What You Don't Know Really Does Hurt You**

The great boon to libraries has been the digitization of journals. But full-text sites, while grand, aren't always full. What you don't know can hurt you:

1. articles on these sites are often missing, among other things, footnotes;
2. tables, graphs, and formulae do not often show up in a readable fashion (especially when printed);  
and
3. journal titles in a digitized package change regularly, often without warning.

A library may begin with X number of journals in September and end with Y number in May. Trouble is, those titles aren't the same from September to May. Although the library may have paid \$100,000 for the access, it's rarely notified of any changes. I would not trade access to digitized journals for anything in the world, but their use must be a judicious, planned, and measured one, not full, total, and exclusive reliance.



## **States Can Now Buy One Book and Distribute to Every Library on the Web—NOT!**

Yes, and we could have one national high school, a national university, and a small cadre of faculty teaching everybody over streaming video. Let's take this one step further and have only digitized sports

Looking into the abyss of the Internet is like vertigo over a void. But the void has to do not only with what's there, but also with what isn't. Not much on the Internet is more than 15 years old. Vendors offering magazine access routinely add a new year while dropping an earlier one. Access to older material is very expensive. It'll be useful, in coming years, for students to know (and have access to) more than just the scholarly materials written in the last 10 to 15 years.



## The Internet Is Ubiquitous but Books Are Portable

In a recent survey of those who buy electronic books, more than 80% said they like buying paper books over the Internet, not reading them on the Web. We have nearly 1,000 years of reading print in our bloodstream and that's not likely to change in the next 75. Granted, there will be changes in the delivery of electronic materials now, and those changes, most of them anyway, will be hugely beneficial. But humankind, being what it is, will always want to curl up with a good book—not a laptop—at least for the foreseeable future.



The Web is great; but it's a woefully poor substitute for a full-service library. It is mad idolatry to make it more than a tool. Libraries are icons of our cultural intellect, totems to the totality of knowledge. If we make them obsolete, we've signed the death warrant to our collective national conscience, not to mention sentencing what's left of our culture to the waste bin of history. No one knows better than librarians just how much it costs to run a library. We're always looking for ways to trim expenses while not contracting service. The Internet is marvelous, but to claim, as some now do, that it's making libraries obsolete is as silly as saying shoes have made feet unnecessary.

*This article originally appeared in American Libraries, April 2001, p. 76-78.*

# SENATE BILL 119

## ALASKA SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GRANT



### Purpose:

- An annual \$3,000 grant for Alaska public school libraries to purchase new materials.

### Goals:

- To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library resources.
- To put money directly into resources for students.
- To parallel the already existing state support of public libraries.

## Rationale

- Public school library budgets vary widely among school districts as well as within school districts.
- Many communities in rural Alaska have no public library and rely on the resources of their school libraries.
- Senate Bill 119 would be a long-term investment in our school infrastructure as well as an investment in the education of our future citizens.

- Reference resources in particular are critical for a quality education in Alaska and need to be current in order to reflect changes in world geography, politics, science and health.

#### Examples:

- Pluto changed from planet to dwarf planet.
- Some schools in our state still have atlases that show the USSR rather than Russia and the various independent republics, even though that political change took place before current students were born.

For more information go to:  
<http://www.akla.org/akasl>

## Timeline:

### 2006-2007 School Year, Steps Completed:

- The Alaska Association of School Librarians (AKASL) worked with concerned Alaskan citizens to introduce the grant into the legislative process.
- Senator Donny Olson became the Primary Sponsor for the grant known as SB 119.
- SB 119 went through the Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee (HESS) in April and is now ready for the Senate Finance Committee.

### 2007-2008 School Year, Steps to Complete:

- Pass SB 119 through the Senate Finance Committee.
- Solicit a Primary Sponsor in the Alaska House of Representatives.
- Seek support from other educational agencies such as Association of Alaska School Boards, Alaska Parent Teacher Association, Alaska Associations of Secondary and Elementary School Principals.
- Seek support from parents, teachers, librarians, and community members.
- Support the Primary Sponsor in moving the House Bill (when designated) through House HESS and finance committees.

## Talking Points

- Stress the purpose, goals and rationale.
- SB 119 would ensure that rural and urban public school students across the state have access to new materials every year.
- Research shows that students in schools with large book collections make better gains in reading.
- Expenditures for updating library collections appear to be linked to student achievement.
- "The libraries in the high-performing schools spent over 25 per cent more money on books and print materials per 100 students than those in the low-performing schools." *An Essential Connection*, p.45, by Robert Burgin, 2003.
- The crunch in educational funding has impacted school library budgets to the point that some schools have no library budget.
- The cost of resources goes up every year even as budgets get smaller.
- Some schools cannot fund popular reading programs such as Battle of the Books.

The Alaska Association of School Librarians believes  
Every Alaskan child deserves access to current information  
We ask you to tell your legislators of your support for



# Senate Bill 119

This bill proposes to raise the achievement of Alaskan students by increasing access to new and varied library materials with a \$2,500 annual grant to eligible Alaskan school libraries. The Alaska Association of School Librarians (AkASL) is working on a legislative initiative to create a school library collection grant which would parallel the on-going state-supported public library collection development grant.

This grant will enable school libraries to replace materials such as almanacs with statistics years out of date, encyclopedias with incomplete or inaccurate entries, atlases with incorrect political boundaries, health books with outdated or misleading information, nonfiction books too old to include advances in science and technology, folklore or picture books which are culturally insensitive, sports books featuring teams which no longer exist and the many wonderful library books which are literally falling apart from many years of use.

Last session Senator Ralph Samuels directed his staff to work on a draft which was then sent to the legislative legal department and registered as SB 119. Senator Donny Olson became the Primary Sponsor, and the bill passed the Senate HES Committee in April of 2007. The next step is passage through the Senate Finance Committee.

#### Did you know?

- School library budgets vary widely with some libraries having a zero budget year after year.
- Many students and community members do not have easy access to a public library. They rely on their school libraries for all information needs such as completing school projects, doing research, and finding interesting books to read.
- SB 119 is a long-term investment in Alaskan school infrastructure and the education of our future Alaskan citizens.

Alaska's students need parents, educators, school board members plus all those interested in literacy and student achievement working together to voice their support for this important bill.

Please, tell your legislator to pass SB 119 this session.

My name is Charlotte Glover and I've been the youth services librarian at the Ketchikan Public Library for the past 17 years. Previously, I was a reading teacher in New Mexico and I have a background in classic literature. I've taken an active interest in early childhood education and literacy issues throughout my career, starting two programs in Ketchikan that help get books to kids- Born to Read, which distributes books to new babies, and the Southern Southeast Chapter of the national literacy effort called First Book which provides books for low income children to build home libraries. I also created a statewide grant program called "Book Bonanza" which to date has provided about \$15,000 worth of new books to school and smaller libraries around the state. Because of these activities, I see dozens of grant applications a year from school librarians and teachers detailing just how limited their resources are for new books.

In addition, my well funded public library is part of a consortium which includes seven school libraries and a college library. I know firsthand how poorly funded the school libraries are in Ketchikan and I admire the local librarians who raise money themselves year after year so their kids can have a few new books on the shelves. My publicly funded children's library has more money for books in a year than most school libraries will see in

two decades because schools have not made new books for kids and teachers a priority.

There is a perception out in the world that kids don't need to or don't want to read in the age of the internet. Nothing could be further from the truth. Our children are dying to see themselves in books and are eager to explore the world through colorful non-fiction and compelling fiction. Circulation continues to grow at my library and we loan an average of 600 books a month to our school libraries. Teachers and students are borrowing folk tales, fairy tales, holiday books, science fair resources, encyclopedias, books about Alaska Native Culture, geography titles, history books and biographies.

A few weeks, the Jr High School librarian came by the public library and checked out dozens of our biographies so her students would have a selection of books to choose from for a 7<sup>th</sup> grade assignment, as her own selection is worn, out of date and limited. Last week a stay at home parent wanted a picture book about Martin Luther King Jr. to read aloud to her child. Our library owns at least a dozen titles that would be appropriate, but they were all checked out to local preschool and primary teachers. In fact, no matter how many holiday books I purchase, I never have enough to go around for all the families and teachers that want to read them.

On a personal note, I spend time with a "Little Sister" in second grade each week. My little sister is in yet another foster home and she begs me to bring her new books each week, books of her own, that she can read and cherish, as she has no home library. Because this girl is bright and because she has me and my resources by her side, she just might read herself out of poverty before she works herself out of poverty, to quote author Pat Mora, but what about all the other kids?

I think those of us with piles of reading material at home forget that each of our communities are full of children who have no access to books other than at their school library. Their parents don't buy books or bring them to the public library so the school library becomes their only outlet for recreational and informational reading. Wouldn't shelves of attractive new books send those kids a message that they are valued?

Senate Bill 119 would give each of our communities more money for desperately needed books and would send a message that we KNOW kids who READ achieve. Study after study has proven that well stocked school libraries with active library programs increase literacy levels and student achievement. Let's help our kids learn to love reading by giving their school libraries a step up.

I am Barb Bryson, District Librarian for Valdez City Schools as well as past-president for the Alaska Association of School Librarians (AkASL).

The Alaska Association of School Librarians, (AkASL), and the Alaska Library Association, (AkLA), support Senate Bill 119, The Public School Library Collection Grant.

AkASL proposes an annual grant up to \$3000 for all active public school libraries in Alaska. This is a relatively small amount of money, but we believe this would be a long-term investment in the school infrastructure, and would promote excellence in education for all districts for years to come. SB 119 would parallel the, already existing, state support of public libraries.

Multiple studies show that "A school library program that is adequately staffed, resourced, and funded can lead to higher student achievement regardless of the socio-economic or educational levels of the community." (Scholastic Library Publishing. (2008). p. 10). School Libraries Work! (Research Foundation Paper Updated 2008 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition).

Based on statistics from 2004-2005 that we received from the state library, the median budget for school libraries nation wide was \$9,368. The average budget in the Pacific Northwest was \$19,211. In Alaska, of the 165 public schools who responded to a survey put out by the State Library in November 2006, the average total school library budget during the 2006-2007 school year was \$4,284.

In 2002 Library/Information Literacy Standards were incorporated as part of the Alaska State Standards. The mission of these standards states: "The school library is the primary source for information and curriculum support. The school library program functions as the information center for the school by providing access to a full range of information resources, in both traditional and electronic format."

As librarians from around the state, we recognize the role school libraries play in the success of Alaska's K-12 students. But without adequate funds our libraries are not able to support the school curriculum needs.

To encourage student success in our state, please pass SB 119.

Adopted 4/10/08

25-LS0749 W  
Mischel  
4.8.08

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 119( )  
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY

Offered:  
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR OLSON

★ pg 3 line 23

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act relating to grant programs to support libraries."

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

3 \* Section 1. AS 14.56.300 is amended to read:

4 Sec. 14.56.300. Library assistance grant program [FUND]. There is  
5 established in the department a library assistance grant program [FUND]. From  
6 legislative appropriations [TO THE FUND], the department shall make grants to  
7 eligible libraries for public library operations, for interlibrary cooperation, or for  
8 regional library services.

9 \* Sec. 2. AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to article 5 to read:

10 Sec. 14.56.355. Library construction and major expansion matching grant  
11 program. (a) There is established in the Department of Commerce, Community, and  
12 Economic Development a matching grant program for library construction and major  
13 expansion.

14 (b) A person in charge of construction or major expansion of an eligible  
15 library may apply to the department for a matching grant under regulations adopted by

1 the department.

2 (c) Subject to appropriation, the department shall award not more than 50  
3 percent of the total proposed grant project costs to an eligible applicant.

4 (d) The department shall establish regulations to implement this section and  
5 the eligibility standards under AS 14.56.356. The regulations must include  
6 consideration for and establishment of an eligibility priority for an application that is  
7 submitted by a community that does not have a public library described in  
8 AS 14.56.356(a)(2).

9 (e) In this section,

10 (1) "department" means the Department of Commerce, Community,  
11 and Economic Development;

12 (2) "major expansion" means an expansion of an existing library to  
13 increase the square footage of the structure by not less than 30 percent.

14 **Sec. 14.56.356. Eligibility.** (a) To be a library eligible for a grant under  
15 AS 14.56.355, a library must be

16 (1) publicly owned and operated by a community; and

17 (2) a public library as described in AS 14.56.400 that is not a public  
18 school library.

19 (b) An applicant for a grant under AS 14.56.355 must provide matching funds  
20 from

21 (1) the local government entity in an amount not less than 20 percent  
22 of the total proposed grant project costs; and

23 (2) private donors in an amount not less than the amount remaining of  
24 the total proposed grant project costs after the state and local contributions are made  
25 toward the project.

26 \* Sec. 3. AS 14.56 is amended by adding new sections to read:

27 **Article 5A. Public School Library Collection Development Grants.**

28 **Sec. 14.56.360. Public school library collection development grants.** (a)  
29 There is established in the department a public school library collection development  
30 grant program.

31 (b) The person or division in charge of the state library shall award and

1           administer grants of not more than \$3,000 for a fiscal year for use by a public school  
 2           library eligible under AS 14.56.365 to expand and improve the library collection to  
 3           include relevant and current reading materials.

4                   (c) If money appropriated for the program is insufficient to fund all eligible  
 5           grant requests submitted under AS 14.56.365, the available funding shall be awarded  
 6           to the highest ranked applicants, according to criteria established by the department in  
 7           regulation.

8                   **Sec. 14.56.365. Eligibility.** (a) A library eligible for a grant under  
 9           AS 14.56.360 must be a public school library established and supported by a school  
 10          district that

11                           (1) provides physical space or, if a correspondence school operated by  
 12          a school district, resources for use as a library;

13                           (2) provides regularly scheduled library hours for all students enrolled  
 14          in the school;

15                           (3) provides designated library personnel to staff the library;

16                           (4) provides acceptable evidence of the promotion of library and  
 17          information literacy standards;

18                           (5) maintains an annual library budget that includes library staffing and  
 19          materials; and

20                           (6) contributes, from the school district's budget, an amount that is not  
 21          less than the grant award that is paid for library collection materials or contributes in-  
 22          kind value of services.

23                           (b) The department <sup>shall</sup> may establish by regulation an application and review  
 24          procedure, including requirements for submission of adequate documentation to prove  
 25          eligibility under this section. Documentation must include submission of library class  
 26          schedules, job descriptions for library staff, and a copy of an annual budget for the  
 27          library.

28                   **Sec. 14.56.370. Eligible expenditures.** (a) A library collection development  
 29          grant may be used only to purchase library collection materials by a public school or  
 30          by a school district if the district operates a correspondence program with an eligible  
 31          school library. In this subsection, "library collection materials" means books,

1 magazines, reference and audio-visual materials, and electronic subscriptions that  
2 support school curriculum and student reading activities.

3 (b) A library collection development grant may not be used to supplant school  
4 district expenditures for the library or to purchase classroom materials, textbooks,  
5 testing software, library automation software, computer hardware, operating software,  
6 or technology support.

7 **Sec. 14.56.375. Report.** A recipient of a grant awarded under AS 14.56.360  
8 shall prepare a brief annual report to the department describing the effects of the grant  
9 and whether all conditions of the grant were met or exceeded.

*R/O  
w/ fiscal notes*

25-LS0749\W  
Mischel  
4/8/08

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TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

*Adopted*

BY

Offered:  
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*conceptual  
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