

Proposed School Library Collection Development Grant Talking Points

Purpose: To increase Alaskan students' access to new and varied library materials we propose a \$2,500 annual grant to active school libraries for schools with more than 5 teachers, and \$750 for schools with an active school library program with 5 or less teachers.

We envision this grant as a means for school libraries to update materials such as atlases that reflect current world geography, almanacs, encyclopedias, advances in science, changes in health issues, recent political issues, etc.

This grant program would parallel the, already existing, state support of public libraries.

This would be a long-term investment in the school infrastructure.

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 encouraging the love of reading.

School library budgets vary widely from district to district. This would be an opportunity to level the playing field between rural and urban school libraries.

The crunch in education funding has impacted schools, and school libraries in Alaska. They have seen budgets go lower and lower with some libraries having no budget at all for new materials.

Some school libraries in our state are using interlibrary loan to borrow books for the Battle of the Books reading incentive program.

Because of the statewide push for school curriculum to support the Alaska Standards, many districts are rewriting curriculum and course work to serve this goal. This grant money would be an excellent way for school libraries to help support curriculum and course updates.

It will support our school's efforts to produce more proficient readers at all grade levels.

