

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