

**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This grant will enable school libraries to replace materials such as almanacs with statistics years out of date, encyclopedias with incomplete or inaccurate entries, atlases with incorrect political boundaries, health books with outdated or misleading information, nonfiction books too old to include advances in science and technology, folklore or picture books which are culturally insensitive,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.