

School Library Services Summit

School Library Systems

NYSED 2009

School Library Systems

- Established in NYS Education Law and Commissioner's Regulations 90.18.
- Created in 1984 to support school library media programs and promote student achievement.

School Library Systems

- Provide equity of access to resources for all students across the state
- Function as key components in the learning process
- Provide leadership and promote NYSED initiatives

School Library Systems

41 School Library Systems provide a comprehensive statewide network that serve:

- 3.1 million students
- 700 school districts
- 500 nonpublic schools
- 4,600 library media centers

Commissioner's Regulations

School Library Systems provide:

- Shared Resources
- Inter-library Loan & Delivery
- Professional Development
- Collaboration and Communication

School Library Systems

Over the last 25 years State funding levels have not been adequate or kept pace with inflation.

These underfunded systems have sustained repeated budgetary cuts.

Operating at 1990 state aid funding levels.

School Library Systems

Economic Considerations and Funding

Sole source of funding for School Library Systems is New York State Library Aid (aid to localities).

Current funding levels are not adequate to support mandated staffing levels.

Fiscal Realities-2009-2010

Commissioner's Regulation 90.18 (d)-School Library System Staffing calls for (1.0) System Director and (1.0) Clerical Support.

Realities:

- 18 SLS or 43.9% have filed a Variance Request for 2009-2010 for inability to meet this requirement with present funding for Director. (32 Variances total).
- Internal operating costs at BOCES on the rise.
- Coser funding opportunities are not available for all SLS.

Evolving Responsibilities of the SLS Director

- School Library Systems under the leadership of Library System Directors, who are certified LMS and hold school district administrative certificates, have developed trainings, promoted and often taught school LMS and teacher partners how to integrate LMC resources in support of teaching and learning for all students K-12.
- Statewide - 2,855 PD Sessions attended by 43,297 participants in 2008-09. (Office of Library Development).

School Library Systems and District Leadership

The School Library System Director serves as the regional advisor on quality school library programs and is an ongoing consultant to the school superintendents and administrative teams from both public schools and non-public schools within the service region. The system of School Library Systems provides these services in all 62 counties of NY State.

School Library System and LMS

The School Library System provides the professional direction, technical support, the professional workshop opportunities and program guidance to the teacher librarian who is often the lone professional in the LMC. Among 700 districts in NY State, there are **very few that have an administrative position** established as district director or coordinator of the library media program.

SLS Leadership and New Opportunities

- Partnership for 21st Century Skills
- Standards for the 21st Century Learner/Learning4Life (AASL)
- Nurturing and expanding School Library/Public Library Partnerships and Project Planning with 3R Systems.
- The School Library System has partnered with BOCES Curriculum Councils, Teacher Centers, RSE-TASC and other regional partners to offer programs that enhance school LMS and teacher training initiatives.

Library Summit Recommendations for SLS Funding-June 2009

Recommendations

NYSED in conjunction with NYLA, SLMS and SLSA will recommend to the Board of Regents that:

- 1) Operating Aid be increased for every School Library System from the present levels (established in 1990).***
- 2) Resolve funding inequities to “Big 5” City School Library Systems by increasing the minimum District formula aid from the present \$5000 level.***
- 3) Per student formula aid be increased from the present level of \$.29 per pupil (established in 1990).***
- 4) Categorical Aid for Automation (Educational Technology) will be increased from the present 10% of the total Operating Aid (established in 1993).***

Conclusion

- ❖ Funding for School Library Systems needs to be amended and increased to meet information literacy, technology and 21st century learning standards.
- ❖ Supplementary Aid of the past few years has provided only bare maintenance and was never intended to sustain the program long term.
- ❖ Education Law 284 funding factors are 19 years old and need to be addressed.

Final Thoughts

- The expanding role and the multi-faceted responsibility of the School Library System will continue to evolve to support K-12 curriculum and student success and achievement.
- The School Library System concept and structure is unique to the United States and essential to the 3.1 million students, teachers, parents and members of the learning community in NY State.
- The vital support and a strong endorsement from the RAC for School Library Systems is important to maintain the vibrancy of a 25-year program that has been a central core resource for K-12 students and programs in 5,000 schools.