

PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GRANT

"A Law relating to grant programs to support libraries"

**AkASL & AkLA Support Funding
Sec. 3 Chapter 55 SLA 2008**



Timeline:

2007-2008 School Year,

- Signed into Law 6/4 - Chapter 55 SLA 08 not funded.
- We began to send letters of support to the Governor and our representatives to get Sec. 3 Chapter 55 SLA 08 funded.

2008 Law - Alaska statutes, AS14.56.360-375:

The law includes two library grant programs. The part that discusses school libraries is now named AS14.56.360.

Both grant programs are needed for libraries and would be good, responsible ways to spend state money that would have long-term impact.

- **Sec. 14.56.355** is a public library construction and major expansion matching grant program. This is a capital expenditure and matching funds will come from the Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development for all communities as passed.
- **Sec. 14.56.360** is a public school library collection development grant. This grant is an operating expenditure and a division of the State Library will award and administer the grants. Grants will be no more than \$3000 for a fiscal year and used to improve school library collections. School library eligibility is based on a specified set of criteria.

2011 Law - Alaska statutes, AS14.56.360-375:

We need to continue to send letters of support to the Governor and our representatives to get Sec. 3 Chapter 55 SLA 08 funded.

Please support Sec. 3 Chapter 55 SLA 2008 as it makes it's way through the House this legislative session. Your AkASL representative will keep you updated when your support is needed to contact legislators.

Sec. AS14.56.360-375

Purpose:

- An annual \$3000 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

Rational

- 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.
- Funding support of SLCD 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:

- 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.
- Pluto changed from planet to dwarf planet.

For more AkASL legislative information go to:

<http://www.akasl.org>

Alaska Legislative website address: <http://www.legis.state.ak.us>

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

- **Sec. 14.56.360** 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 have been linked to student achievement.
- "The libraries in the high-performing schools spend over 25% more 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 can not fund popular reading programs such as Battle of the Books.

You can read or print out the law as enrolled at:

http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/get_bill_text.asp?hsid=SB0119Z&session=25