



2012 Talking Points

- Restore Library Aid to 2010 level of \$84.78 million or at the very least receive the same 4% increase as schools
- Library Aid has been reduced 23% from \$102 million in 2007 to \$79 million in 2011.
- During the same time period, library usage has increased 11%.
- Library Aid funding is below 1994 levels and no other educational institutions are being funded at that level.
- Library circulation (number of materials borrowed) has increased 18% since 2004.
- Libraries like schools are educational institutions chartered by the Board of Regents and governed by Education Law.
- 71% of registered voters in New York agree that libraries deserve same increase in aid as schools according to January 2012 Siena Research Institute poll.
- 24% of registered voters had someone in their household use the resources at the library to apply for a job, search for a new career or improve their employment skills in the past year.
- According to the NYS Library, over the past three years 97% of public library budgets have been approved by their voters, showing New Yorkers overwhelming support funding for library services.
- Library Aid makes up less than 1/10 of 1% of the state budget, yet libraries serve 75% of the state's population.
- Each week, over 2.25 million people visit a library in New York State.
- One third of minority households do not have internet access at home and only 37% of households with less than \$20,000 in income have home access and rely on libraries to bridge the digital divide.
- Providing digital literacy in our schools and public libraries is essential to remaining competitive and connected in a global economy.

