



# Budget Request

## Increase Per Pupil Rate for Library Materials Aid (LMA)

### What are Instructional Materials Aids?

- Instructional materials aids include library materials, textbook, software, and hardware aids.
- These aids are critical for reducing inequitable access to educational technology.
- These aids are not reimbursement-based, but allocational based on a certain amount per pupil.

### What is LMA used for?

School library materials eligible for reimbursement include audio/visual and printed materials that meet the following criteria:

- Are catalogued and processed as part of the school library or media center for use by elementary and/or secondary school children and teachers
- Are expected to last more than one year after use
- Are ineligible for aid as textbooks

Examples of materials eligible for LMA include:

Paperback books	Hardcover Books	Periodicals
Pamphlets	Musical Scores	Videos
Audio Recordings	Maps/Globes	Charts

### History of LMA

There were moderate increases to LMA during the first 5 years of its inception. Unfortunately, aid has not been increased since 2007.

Timeline: 1994 (\$2) ➔ 1995 (\$4) ➔ 1998 (\$6) ➔ 2007 (\$6.25)

### Current LMA

- Currently, up to \$6.25 per pupil attending public or nonpublic schools within a school district's boundaries can be reimbursed by the State.
- Aid is calculated by multiplying \$6.25 by the number of enrolled pupils.

### NYLA Budget Request

- District costs for library materials have increased substantially over this time. When purchased by a school library, the average cost of a new hardcover children's title is \$21.31.
- Updating the per pupil allocation for each of the instructional materials aids, including LMA, to reflect inflation would benefit students in and out of the classroom.
- The New York State Board of Regents has recommended increasing LMA to \$10.55/pupil and tying future adjustments to inflation.
- **NYLA supports the Board of Regents' proposal, but requests a further increase of the per pupil rate from \$6.25 ➔ \$11.00**





# Library Construction Aid Budget Request: \$69.4M

## LIBRARY CONSTRUCTION AID PROGRAM:

Funds that are allocated annually in the State Budget for the use of public libraries and systems for construction, renovation, rehabilitation, or acquisition of new space. Other eligible or unique projects include broadband installation, emergency generators, and security systems.

## WHERE WE WERE:

- In 2022, an allocation of \$34M was made to the Library Construction Aid Program.
- Last year’s investment came in the wake of a \$20 million reduction in 2020 and subsequent restoration of funding in 2021. **This year’s Executive budget would once again cut the program by \$20M.**

## WHERE WE ARE:

- New York State’s public library buildings are rapidly aging.  
Over half of our state’s libraries are over 60 years old.
- The most recent available data provided by the New York State Education Department documents an existing \$1.5B in capital needs statewide.

## WHERE WE SHOULD BE:

- Increased investment would allow public libraries to maintain and develop their physical infrastructure to ensure they are safe, accessible, and sustainable for everyone.
- Additional capital for construction also means the capacity for projects that expand broadband access in communities with limited infrastructure and low-rates of connectivity.
- Expanded budgets mean expanded spaces and opportunities to promote literacy, creativity, civic engagement, and thriving and resilient communities.

## IN YOUR DISTRICT:

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# State Library Aid Budget Request: \$147.1M

## **LIBRARY AID PROGRAM:**

Funds that are allocated each year within the New York State budget for use by each library type and system. State aid supports interlibrary loan, delivery, continuing education, coordination of collection development, automation, and other resource sharing activities.

## **WHERE WE WERE:**

- State Library Aid in the FY2022-23 enacted budget was \$99.6M.
- Nominal increases to State Aid had been given to libraries leading up to 2000.
- A steady decline occurred until 2007 when for the first and only time - Library Aid was fully funded under Education Law.
- New York libraries have struggled to secure adequate increases in funding for the last 15 years.

## **WHERE WE ARE:**

- New York State Education Law calls for \$104.6M in State Library Aid for FY 2023-2024.
- More than \$129M in statutory State Library Aid has been withheld since FY2007-2008.
- Persistent underfunding has disenfranchised millions of vulnerable New Yorkers who lack access to information resources and trusted, community-based information professionals.
- Libraries incurred thousands of dollars of expenditures to operate safely during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Without a substantial increase in aid, libraries will be unable to bridge the growing gap between available funding, operational needs, and the cost of paying personnel wages that fairly compensate their labor.

## **WHERE WE SHOULD BE:**

- Increased aid will allow for expanded collections via subscriptions and e-titles, the retention of new staff, and the creation of comprehensive programming for beginners and advanced learners.
- An increase in aid will assist communities by offsetting future local tax levy increases.
- If fully funded, libraries and their staff can expand their reach to ensure all New Yorkers are confident digital stewards through media literacy programs.

## **IN YOUR DISTRICT:**

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### **Municipal Ballot Petition Reduction**

This bill would align the petition signature requirement for libraries using a municipal ballot approach with the 25-signature requirement in place for libraries using a school district ballot approach for their budget proposals.

### **Elimination of Library Construction Cap**

Libraries serving economically distressed communities may be eligible for Library Construction Aid awards beyond 75.00%. However, the law currently only allows public library systems to award 50% of their total allocation to such projects.

This proposal would eliminate the 50% cap to ensure that libraries serving economically distressed communities and libraries in rural regions will be able to make use of the library construction aid intended to benefit these communities.

### **Book Fair Tax Exemption**

This bill would make books, magazines, pamphlets and other items sold at both school sponsored book fairs & events hosted by friends of libraries groups exempt from sales tax.

### **Association Library Retirement Opt-In Option**

This bill would allow association libraries that meet certain criteria the ability to join the New York State Retirement System upon approval of their board.

### **Access to Publicly Funded Research**

This bill would ensure original research that is the result of state funding would be available, free of charge, to the public.

### **Check Out New York**

This bill would provide one-pass per public library to every state park, historic site, and recreational facility operated by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

### **Modernization of Civil Service**

Working with the Civil Service Committee, legislative partners and allies at external organizations, we are seeking amendments to processes and protocols within Civil Service for the field of librarianship.

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### **Media Literacy Professional Development**

*A32 Rosenthal*

This bill would require teachers and certified school librarians to receive professional development related to media literacy.

The tiered training, 5 hours for teachers and 15 hours for librarians, would be deducted from the required 100 hours required by education law.

### **Library Media Specialist Requirement**

*A40 Rosenthal*

If enacted this bill would require, based on student population and other specified criteria, that school have access to a library media specialist.

### **Media Literacy Advisory Group**

*A35 Rosenthal*

If enacted, this bill would direct the Commissioner of Education to appoint a Media Literacy Advisory Committee to study the teaching of media literacy across New York State. The assembled group would include staff from school library systems, school libraries and individuals from high education institutions that offer information studies programs.

### **Media Literacy Standards**

If enacted, this legislation would direct the State Education Department to develop a set of media literacy standards and ensure media literacy education is being provided to students across New York State.

Such standards will ensure that all students, grades K-12, are receiving broad media literacy education that is inclusive of the use of technology and social media, responsible online behavior, proper use of online resources for research, curating a positive digital footprint, internet safety, civility and more.

### **School Library Facility Modernization**

The current regulation that defines a school library facility has not been updated in over twenty years.

This proposal would address the antiquated metrics within NY-CRR 91.1 and insert characteristics associated with a successful, 21st century school library.

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