

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
ILLINOIS STATE LIBRARY
FY2009 SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARY GRANT PROGRAM
FACT SHEET**

GRANT PROGRAM: BACKGROUND

The School Library Grants Program was established by the Illinois General Assembly in the *Illinois Library System Act* [75 ILCS 10/8.4]. This unique grant program authorizes a maximum of \$0.75 per student to support the services of Illinois school districts' library programs and services. This grant program was signed into law in 1989 after authorization by Public Act 86-518. The 1993 passage of House Bill 526 authorized the minimum grant to be \$100 per school district.

The FY2008 School District Library Grant Program, budgeted at \$1.4 million, benefited 719 successful school district applicants serving 1,935,780 students (at .7233 per pupil) through more than 3,400 school libraries.

GRANT PROGRAM: PURPOSE

Grant funds must be used to support the services of the district's school library media program. The primary purpose of this grant is to provide quality library services, books, and materials to support students' learning. This may include but is not limited to:

- Purchase of library books and other library materials;
- Purchase and maintenance of equipment located in the library and used by staff and/or students as part of regular library services;
- Professional development of the library staff; and/or
- Library computers and telecommunications costs.

Grant funds may **NOT** be used for capital improvements such as attached shelving, wiring, remodeling, or construction.

GRANT PROGRAM: ELIGIBILITY

Illinois public school districts, recognized by the Illinois State Library as members in good standing of an Illinois regional multitype library system, are eligible to apply. If a school district is not a system member, then the district must apply for system membership [in accordance with 23 IL ADC 3035.120] to be considered eligible for this grant offering.

The purpose of this grant is to support the services of the school library program; therefore, only attendance centers meeting the following requirements may be included for funding consideration:

- Each named attendance center is required to have a library occupying identifiable quarters, accessible centrally, in one principal location within that attendance center. A library is more than a computer lab.
- The library is required to:
 1. serve the basic information and library needs of the school's employees and students;
 2. have a bibliographically organized collection of library materials;
 3. have a collection permanently supported financially; and,
 4. have at least one employee whose primary duty is to serve as a librarian.

The school district must certify that the financial support for the school library or libraries of the applying school district has been maintained undiminished, or if diminished, the percentage of diminution of financial support is no more than the percentage of diminution of the applying school's total financial support for educational and operations purposes since the submission of the last previous application of the school district for the school library per student grant that was funded.

The school district must show progress toward meeting the Illinois school library standards as most recently adopted by the Illinois School Library Media Association: **Linking for Learning: The Illinois School Library Media Program Guidelines, 2nd ed., 2005.**

The Illinois Administrative Code [23 IL ADC 3030.10] "library" definition specifies information about the employee/librarian's hours "... and has at least one employee who works at least fifteen hours per week as the librarian ... "

NOTE:

IL ADC is the abbreviation for the Illinois Administrative Code.

ILCS is the abbreviation for the Illinois Compiled Statutes.