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NEWS

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3,300 School Libraries in Illinois Get Grants From Jesse White

SPRINGFIELD —Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White has announced that he is awarding almost 3,300 school libraries in Illinois grants from the Secretary of State's School Libraries Grant Program.

White said \$1.37 million is being awarded statewide to 759 school districts, many of which have more than one school library. The grants, which may be used to provide more library books and other materials for students in public elementary and secondary schools, will benefit 1.8 million students.

"Illinois was the first state in the nation to enact a school library grant program, and thanks to this valuable funding our school libraries are among the best in the nation," White said. "Students depend on our school libraries for information that helps them become good students, and for other material that keeps them enlightened and entertained. In some of our communities, students do not have easy access to public libraries. They depend solely on their school library for the books and other materials they need.

"School libraries provide the tools that allow students to develop more critical thinking skills. School library programs are a valuable asset in strengthening reading skills. They provide a positive environment where kids can interact with one another and make new friends. The research, evaluation and thinking skills students develop from school librarians and school library media specialists will last a lifetime.

"During my tenure as State Librarian, I have visited many Illinois school libraries and seen firsthand how they benefit

students of all ages. I'll continue to do all I can to provide school libraries with the resources they need to produce outstanding students."

[List of school districts receiving school library grant awards.](#)