

Help Support Library Aid

New York State Library Aid has not been funded to the full extent of Education Law since **2008**.

Governor Andrew Cuomo included **\$86.627 Million** for Library Aid in his proposed Executive Budget FY2015-16. This amount is **16% less** than what should be funded according to Education Law (**\$102.6 Million**) and is equivalent to **1997** funding.

Separate amounts of **\$14 Million** for Public Library Construction Grant Program and **\$1.3 Million** for reimbursement to libraries subject to the MTA Commuter Tax were also included. Overall, this represents a **0% increase** over the final amounts included in last year's enacted budget.

Libraries are educational institutions chartered by the NYS Board of Regents, administered by the State's Education Department, and like schools, receive both State and local funds to serve the educational needs of their communities. However, last year (FY2014-15), total education spending increased by **5.7%**, while Library Aid spending only increased by **1.2%**.

Library Systems and Libraries have gone beyond books to cater to their communities' growing informational needs. The cost of living alone has risen more than **47% since 1997**. **Fund Library Aid to the full extent of Education Law (\$102.6 Million).**

LIBRARIES = EDUCATION = Unlimited POSSIBILITIES @ the LIBRARY

Why Support Library Aid?

FACTS [from 2013]

\$4.6 MILLION SAVED

Libraries save on annual maintenance of 1 Integrated Library System (ILS) that includes over 985 computers in the field

\$4 MILLION SAVED

Libraries save on provision of Wireless Access Network with 76 access points throughout the County

\$7.3 MILLION SAVED

Libraries save on using WLS Delivery for transporting of 2.5 Million items between libraries

TOTAL SAVINGS:

\$15.9 MILLION

EMPOWERING LIBRARIES

The majority of Library Aid goes to the 22 Library systems — **Westchester Library System** is one of them— created by New York State to help expand the resources of all local libraries in part by facilitating sharing of library materials. Through centralized services provided from one location versus from each individual library, library systems offer excellent examples of efficiency, such as:

- Facilitating **sharing of library materials** across the **38** libraries in Westchester
- Ongoing **maintenance of technology services** including computers and wireless
- **Cataloging collection holdings** for easier discoverability and **centralized purchasing** of databases
- Venue for **county-wide collaboration** and innovation

These savings allow libraries to further their own resources and empower their communities.

FACTS [from 2013]

8.4 MILLION

Total library materials taken out

\$75 MILLION

Library users saved by borrowing books instead of buying them

1.9 MILLION

Public Access PC use and WiFi sessions

301,292

Electronic materials downloaded

612,416

Total Books Read during Summer Reading Games

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Westchester libraries offer unlimited possibilities through the following:

- **Reciprocal sharing** of all library collections throughout the County plus **24/7 online access to e-books**
- **Computer and Wi-Fi access** and a **variety of online tools** to help with completing a high school diploma or looking for a job
- A **safe place for children and teens** with story times in English/Spanish and Summer Reading Games that help bridge the gap when school is not in session
- **AND SO MUCH MORE!**