

May 25, 2018

On behalf of the Washington Library Association (WLA), we would like to discuss how to appropriately spend the allocated \$20/FTE funding in [Senate Bill 6362](#) that is designated for library materials in the Basic Education Funding bill recently passed by the State Legislature. We are confident these expenditures for your school library program will benefit students and teachers.

This bill ensures funding for library materials is separate from “other supplies” (see line 17 below). Spending on library materials is more closely associated with student learning than a general MSOC allocation. WLA asked legislators for this change because inequitable budgets for school libraries have left teachers and students with inadequate or out-of-date resources.

Here is an excerpt from page 6 of SB 6362:

5	(8) (a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the minimum
6	allocation for each school district shall include allocations per
7	annual average full-time equivalent student for the following
8	materials, supplies, and operating costs as provided in the 2017-18
9	school year, after which the allocations shall be adjusted annually
10	for inflation as specified in the omnibus appropriations act:
11	Per annual average
12	full-time equivalent student
13	in grades K-12
14	Technology. \$130.76
15	Utilities and insurance. \$355.30
16	Curriculum and textbooks. \$140.39
17	Other supplies ((and library materials)). (\$298.05) <u>\$278.05</u>
18	<u>Library materials.</u> \$20.00
19	Instructional professional development for certificated and
20	classified staff. \$21.71
21	Facilities maintenance. \$176.01
22	Security and central office administration. \$121.94

<http://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2017-18/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/6362-S2.SL.pdf>

The [2015 study commissioned by WLA](#) and [similar studies](#) conducted across the nation show a strong correlation between support for school library staffing, instruction and materials, and student success. Schools with strong library programs showed higher student scores on statewide assessments, particularly in reading, and higher five-year graduation rates. Schools with strong library programs also had more equitable access to technology and research resources for students—something that is very important to ensure ALL students have access to these tools and instruction on how to use them. We encourage you to [learn more](#) about how important library programs are for students.

Although we understand the \$20 per FTE is not a mandate, there is clear legislative intent for school districts to ensure library resources, spaces, and appropriately trained staff are available for student

learning. State legislators strongly support school libraries, as evidenced by the inclusion of teacher-librarians in the prototype school allocation (**RCW 28A.300.173**), inclusion of information technology literacy in the state's core basic education goals (**RCW 28A.150.210 (3)**), passage of SB 5294 in 2015 (**RCW 28A.320.240**), which expanded the definition of school library programs to school library information and technology programs, and the creation of a separate MSOC line item for MSOC allocations this year. Teachers and students deserve equitable, well-funded school libraries with certified teacher-librarians providing necessary resources and learning opportunities.

District librarians are now reaching out to administrators, teachers, and school board members to show how their districts' school library funds benefit every child. The equitable library funding allocation in SB 6362 will ensure that students have more up-to-date and culturally responsive materials.

WLA urges you to work with your school librarians to ensure efficient and adequate planning for dollars to be spent in the library. Our hope is that when the 2019 MSOC reports go to the school boards, districts will have clearly outlined spending for libraries to show how these dollars are improving student success.

Once again, we hope you will visit the links provided above to studies that show how support for school library information technology programs benefit your students, your teachers, your schools, and your district.

Respectfully,



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