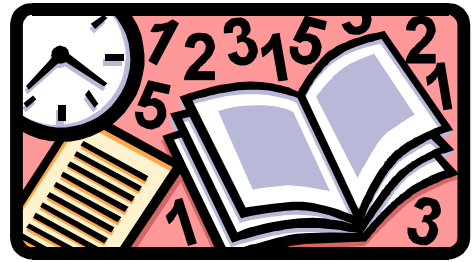


WHAT CAN I DO?



...to keep a library budget this year?

Background:

The 2002-2003 Library Act funding was examined closely by the Assembly Budget Subcommittee on Education Finance and the Senate Budget Subcommittee. As of 2/3/03, \$11.6 million was preserved as a line item in the state budget. It was approved by both houses but because of its link to increases in the Vehicle License Fee, it has stalled. On 2/24 the Senate introduced a new bill NOT linked to the Vehicle License Fee (SBX1 18). It also proposes \$11.6 million for the Library Act.

Action:

- Write to your new best friend, your legislator. Say thanks for preserving \$11.6 million for school library materials. (note: this represents a 93% cut from the original \$158.5 m amount)
- Share this information with your school principal when all is approved
- Subscribe to calibk12

Resources:

- See ABX1 8 (Oropeza) and SBX1 18 (Chesbro) <www.leginfo.ca.gov>
- Check CSLA Web page frequently for the latest information <www.schoollibrary.org>.
- Find your legislators <www.leginfo.ca.gov/yourleg.html>
- See California Department of Education library pages <www.cde.ca.gov/library>

...to use our unspent carryover of Library funds?

Background:

To help districts survive the midyear budget reductions, the Legislature proposed that districts be allowed access to up to 50% of *restricted and unrestricted reserves* for the 2002-03 year. This appears in both midyear adjustment bills, ABX1 8 and SBX1 18. Many districts have frozen spending until this is resolved; however, some districts are permitting the spending of prior year Library Act funds.

Action:

- All decisions about this will be made at the district level.
- Talk with your principal. What are the principal's priorities? How does library improvement help the principal meet his or her goals?
- Put in writing: what are the consequences if the carryover funds you were counting on from last year do not go to the library?
- Whose classes will suffer the most if new materials are not ordered? How many students will be impacted? Make sure teachers/departments are aware and willing to speak out.
- Ask for access to the Library Act funds carried over from earlier apportionments. Ask to be an exception.

Resources:

- Your district and/or site library plan
- Your district and/or site technology plan

...to have a library budget next year?

Background:

The Governor proposed a categorical block grant for 2003-04 composed of 64 current categorical programs, including the Library Act. On 2/20/03, the Legislative Analyst released her proposed block grant alternative that features five specific "blocks" of categoricals. School Library Materials are proposed as part of the *Core Services Block Grant*. Once again, the goal is to retain a line item in the state budget for the Library Act—with some money in it.

Action:

- Track Legislative Alert from CSLA <www.schoollibrary.org> and act accordingly and frequently. One letter is not enough this year.
- Participate in the CLA/CSLA Legislative Day in Sacramento, April 30, 2003
- Seek a share of the Title V *No Child Left Behind* funds
- Apply for a Governor's Book Fund grant in 2003-2004
- Explore the possibilities of awards and grants from CSLA and AASL <www.ala.org/aasl>

Resources:

- CSLA Legislative Alert <www.schoollibrary.org>

...to keep school library staff?

Background:

When district funds are severely decreased, school library positions are vulnerable. At this time of the year, districts may "pink slip" or give out "March 15th notices" to employees. This gives the district room to maneuver within the law once they finally know the status of the state budget. While it is definitely a call to action, it does not necessarily mean the termination of a position. You must *push back*!

Action:

- Put collaborative efforts first!
- Share articles, with key points highlighted, that show a connection between student achievement and school libraries
- Invite your administrator to be a part of school library activities
- Library update for school board
- Monthly library report. Emphasize the numbers of teachers and students using the resources
- Speak to key groups about the importance of the library program
- Sponsor special, high profile literacy events, e.g. Read Across America, <www.nea.org/readacross> or National Library Week, April 6-12, 2003 <www.ala.org>

Resources:

- "Capitalizing on the School Library's Potential to Positively Affect Student Achievement; A Sampling of Resources for Administrators" Hartzell <www.ims.gov/pubs/whitehouse0602/whitehouse.htm>
- See also White House Conference on School Libraries proceedings