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School Libraries in the May Revise

Governor Prioritizes School Libraries in the May Revise

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Here is the latest news from CSLA's legislative advocate, Jeff Frost, about school library funding in the state budget. Be sure to check the list at the end to see if your legislator is one of the lawmakers to contact. Be sure to say you are a constituent when you make the contact. All CSLA members are encouraged to contact each of these assembly members and senators urging their support for including this increase in the school library funding. Now, more than ever, is the time to **SPEAK UP!**

--Ellie Goldstein-Erickson

On May 13, 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger released the May Revision to the proposed 2004-05 State Budget. Because of an improved economy and an increase in one-time funds not spent in prior years, available Proposition 98 revenues have increased since the budget was introduced in January. One of the programs proposed for an increase by the Governor is the California School Library Protection Fund. The Governor's May Revision budget document states:

\$95.1 million in one-time Proposition 98 Reversion Account funding for the provision of classroom or school library materials. As the State's recent budget difficulties have led to significant reductions in this program, the Administration believes it is appropriate to expend some of the available one-time resources to replenish and refresh classroom or school library materials. This will provide a one-time funding level of \$99.4 million for these purposes in 2004-05.

Beginning this week, legislative committees will be working to finalize the 2004-05 budget. There will be very serious competition for these new funds and legislators will be urged to spend them on a variety of programs other than school libraries. CSLA needs to begin communicating with their legislators immediately urging that the final budget contain the \$95 million increase

proposed for school libraries. Final actions will likely be taken in the next two weeks.

The primary focus should be on the members of the two budget subcommittees: Assembly Members Simitian, Goldberg, Chan, Daucher, Liu, and Runner and Senators Scott, Vasconcellos and Margett.

[Contact information for budget subcommittee members.](#)

[Proper letter format to state legislatures.](#) (Although this information originally appeared last year, it is still timely. Remember, snail mail and faxes are most effective. And, always use your own words!)

Jeff Frost
Frost, Davis & Donnally
Legislative Advocates

Posted 6/2/2004

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