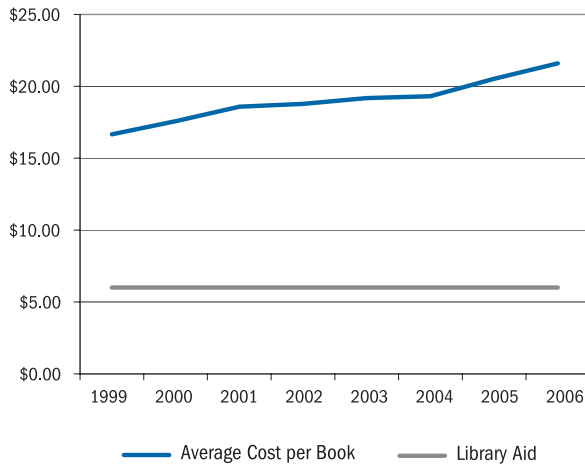
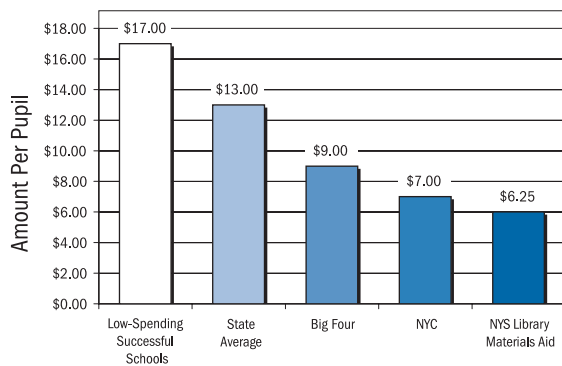


**Average Cost of a Book vs  
Per Pupil Library Materials Aid, 1999-2006**



**NYS Average Expenditures for School Library  
Materials vs. School Library Materials Aid**



### About NYLA

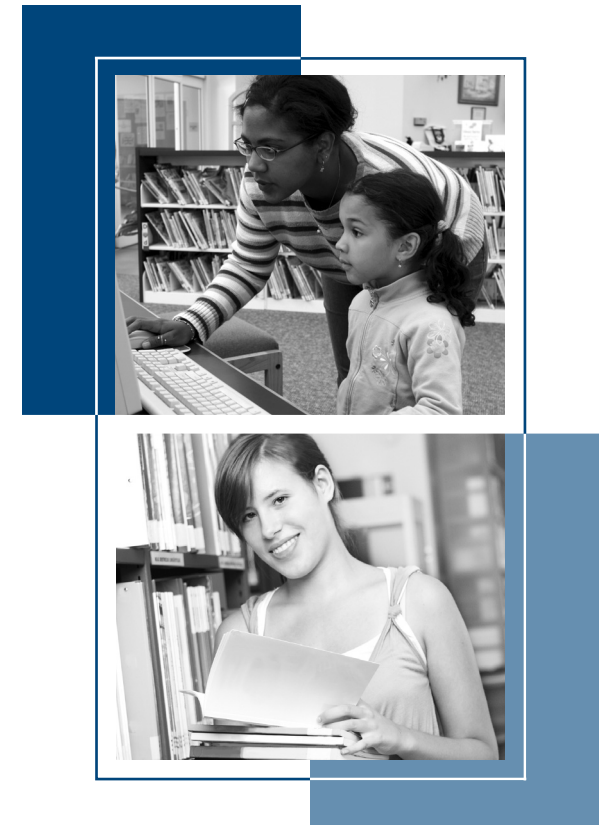
The New York Library Association is the Voice of the Library Community in New York. NYLA, established by Melvil Dewey in 1890, is the oldest state library association in the country and represents school, academic, special and public libraries and library staff from around the state.

NYLA is the only organization dedicated to advocating on behalf of libraries and library workers in Albany. NYLA advocates for increased funding for libraries and better working conditions for library staff. Library assistants and other support staff are all welcome to join NYLA and add their voice to their colleagues in helping shape the future of libraries and the library profession in New York.

NYLA offers a variety of services and programs to meet our members' needs ranging from professional development opportunities at our Annual Conference and Regional Institutes to member discounts on a range of services and products for your personal or professional needs.

In addition, members receive our regular quarterly newsletter, the NYLA Bulletin, as well email updates via our Online Membership Center on legislative issues, professional development programs, and awards/scholarship announcements.

Visit [www.nyla.org](http://www.nyla.org) to learn more about the New York Library Association and our School Library Media Section (SLMS) which contributed to the development of this brochure



**Certified School Library  
Media Specialists**  
*Making a Difference*



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
*The Voice of the Library Community*

## School Libraries

School libraries are the cornerstone and educational hub of the school community. School libraries have become sophisticated learning environments offering a full range of print and electronic resources that provide equal learning opportunities to all students, regardless of socio-economic or education levels.

## School Libraries Impact on Student Academic Achievement

School libraries staffed by certified School Library Media Specialists (school librarians) do make a measurable difference on student academic achievement. Sixteen different state studies have documented the positive impact that properly staffed and equipped school libraries have on student test scores and grades.

## School Libraries Have an Important Role in Teaching

School Library Media Specialists are important instructional partners with other educators in the school by helping to develop and support the curriculum by using the library's resources to expand upon the learning opportunities outside the classroom.

## School Libraries Are Leading the Way for Technology Use in Schools

Today's school libraries or media centers offer much more than books to expand a student's learning opportunities. School libraries can offer a wide array of computer and electronic resources that can be accessed by students in the library and the classroom.

## School Libraries Inspire Literacy

Research has shown that school libraries have the tools to inspire literacy in learners of all ages. By providing the opportunity to read stories and explore information that matters to them, school libraries instill a desire for learning and a love for reading in students of all ages.

## Voices in Support of School Libraries



"From teaching of basic library skills to the extensions of research, resources and classroom connections, our School Library Media Specialist does it all. She inspires and guides young people to becoming and continuing to be avid readers"

**Mary, Elementary School Principal**



"I love to visit the school library because there are all different books that our librarian suggests to us. I think books open up a new world to everyone!"

**Lindsey, 5th grader**



"My child enjoys going to the school library and learning how to look up information with the help of the school librarian. The library is an important part of her learning experience at school."

**Linda, Elementary School Parent**



"I collaborate with the school librarian in developing my lesson plan and reading assignments. The resources available at the school library are an essential tool in educating our students."

**Karen, Reading Teacher**

## How You Can Help School Libraries?

### Increase School Library Materials Aid to \$10 Per Pupil

Library Materials Aid is used by school districts to purchase books and other educational resources for the school library. Library Materials Aid was raised from \$6 to \$6.25 per pupil in 2007, which was the first increase since 1998. After 8 years of no increases, a 25 cent increase does not buy much, especially when the average cost of a library book has risen 30% since 1999 to \$21.60. The Board of Regents has recommended that Library Materials Aid be increased to \$10 per pupil, which is a modest increase considering that low-spending successful schools spend on average \$17 per pupil.

### Require School Library Media Specialists in Grades K-6

Current state education law does not require school librarians in grades K-6, despite numerous studies that demonstrate the impact school libraries staffed by certified school librarians have on student academic achievement. Elementary school is also a critical stage in a child's literacy development, where a school librarian trained to use the resources of the school library can instill an appreciation for reading that could last a lifetime. The need for properly staffed and equipped school libraries is even more critical in underperforming high need schools. There are approximately 700,000 students in NYS without access to a school library staffed by a certified library media specialist.