

New Mexico Task Force for School Libraries

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In cooperation with the New Mexico Library Association, the State Department of Education, and the State Board of Education, the New Mexico Task Force for School Libraries seeks to improve school libraries throughout the state.

Thank you for the LESC's history of support for school libraries

- For decades, the LESC's support has improved school libraries and increased equitable access to resources for New Mexico's students.
- In 2003, the LESC helped establish the School Library Materials Fund (SLMF), which provided valuable and necessary funding for school libraries across the state.
- Every two years, the LESC has helped get General Obligation Bond funding on the ballot.
- **GO Bond B was recently approved by a majority of New Mexico's voters.**
- As a result, \$3,000,000 will go to maintain and improve library collections in rapidly changing areas like social studies, science, and technology, as well as popular titles that encourage a love of reading.

\$3,000,000 for the SLMF would combine with GO B Bond funding to bolster school libraries

- GO Bond B, approved by 62.9% of New Mexico's voters, will send \$3,000,000 to public school libraries. On average, this translates into approximately \$8.95/student, spread out over two years (\$4.50/student each year).
- If SLMF was funded in the same amount, \$3,000,000, New Mexico's school libraries would receive another \$8.95/student this year.
- **This would combine for a total of approximately \$17.91 per student**, which would be enough to buy one new book or resource (i.e. on-line resource database) for each New Mexico public school student, and provide a vital supplement to the funding school libraries receive from their schools' budgets.

Importance of Strong, Well-Funded School Libraries

- We have an exciting chance to significantly improve existing public school library collections.
- School libraries are more vital than ever, and it's imperative they provide a mix of traditional services and access to exciting new resources.
- With your support, we can keep equitable resources in our school libraries.
- With this funding, our public school libraries can continue to provide the books and instruction they always have, and expand to help our students become technology-savvy citizens of a fast-changing and competitive digital world.

Allocating money to the School Library Materials Fund will benefit all New Mexico public school students by supporting literacy efforts, ensuring equitable access to up-to-date library materials, and helping districts reach assessment goals.