

Dear ,

You passed AS 14.56.360-375 (<http://w3.legis.state.ak.us/misc/districts.php>) into law; now Alaska students need you to fund it.

### Did you know?

- Public School Library budgets vary widely among and within school districts in Alaska?
- Some school libraries have NO materials budget and others rely on PTSA and book fairs to provide resources for their students?
- Many rural communities have no public library and rely on the school library for books and resources?
- The average cost of all library books in 2008 was \$21.10, non-fiction averaged \$27.04, and fiction books averaged \$17.63?
- Online databases can cost as much as \$3,000 per year depending on school size?
- Some schools in our state have out-of-date resources such as:
  - atlases still showing the USSR?
  - books that have Pluto as a planet and not a dwarf planet?
  - average copyright dates from 1980 or 1970 or even older?
  - sound recordings on cassette tapes instead of current media formats?

### Why fund the School Library Collection Development Grant?

- Research shows that students in schools with large book collections have higher reading scores.
- Expenditures for updating school library collections have been linked to student achievement.
- Some schools cannot fund popular reading programs such as Battle of the Books.
- The grant supplements school budgets; ***it doesn't replace them*** and will help provide **equity in resources to ALL Alaskan students.**

Funding AS14.56.360-375, the *Public School Library Collection Development Grant* would provide financial assistance to qualified school libraries seeking to correct deficiencies in their collections. Support would take the form of grants covering books, magazines, reference materials and electronic materials. Funding this law will help provide more equity in resources for all Alaskan students.

I believe that the best place for students to access curriculum appropriate materials supporting school coursework is in their own school libraries. Please fund **AS 14.56.360-375** to improve school library collections.

Sincerely,