

Points to make in a letters to your legislator and POMs:

Make it personal:

How the collection development grant will affect your students.

Examples of outdated materials

Resources you would purchase

Stress the law doesn't replace budgets; it supplements them. Libraries must meet regulations to qualify. These regulations were approved by the State Board of Education in December 2008.

- Public School Library budgets vary widely among and within school districts in Alaska?
- Some school libraries have NO budget and 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- Some schools in our state have out of date resources such as: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 CDs and Playaways?
- 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**.