

# FACT SHEET

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## FY2009 School Library Media Center Incentive Grants

### BACKGROUND

In the Commonwealth, poor facilities, lack of automation and up-to-date equipment, and outdated collections, incompatible with the Curriculum Frameworks hinder our school library media centers. Our students suffer from these insufficiencies as their school library media centers struggle to provide them with much-needed set of skills and resources to help them become competent lifelong learners, information-literate in this information-rich digital world. How behind are we? In 2000, the U.S. DOE reported that Massachusetts ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 51 states (includes D.C) with only 63.3 books checked out per 100 students each week, far below the national average of 106.2 books. The Commonwealth ranked 40<sup>th</sup> for total materials expenditures per student and 36<sup>th</sup> for number of books held per 100 students. A 1999 Simmons GSLIS study found that “at every grade level, schools with library programs have higher MCAS (Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System) scores at the elementary level, students score higher on the MCAS tests when the library is aligned with the state curriculum frameworks.” Simmons also reported that, based on 1998-99 U.S. DOE rankings, Massachusetts ranked 49<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states in terms of providing its public schools with library media centers and 38<sup>th</sup> in providing public school students with certified library media specialists.

A landmark statewide research study that provides insight into the effectiveness of school libraries from the student’s perspective confirms that “the effective school library led by a credentialed school librarian plays a critical role in facilitating learning in general, and information literacy, in particular.” Furthermore, “99.4 percent of students in grades 3 to 12 believe school libraries and their services help them become better learners.” (*Student Learning Through Ohio School Libraries*, Dr. Ross J. Todd and Dr. Carol C. Kuhlthau and “13,000 Kids Can’t Be Wrong” by Debra Lau Whelan, *School Library Journal* February 1, 2004.)

### MASSACHUSETTS LONG-RANGE PLAN GOAL

**Goal 4:** Massachusetts children and young adults will have access to public and school libraries that are active partners in providing resources and learning opportunities that foster literacy from birth through the teen years.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This program will improve the resources available to K-12 students through their school library media centers and promote the visibility of school library media centers and their role as “an integral part of the teaching and learning process across all areas of the curriculum” (Massachusetts School Library Media Association’s “Model School Rubrics,” May 2002). Grantees will:

- Purchase and catalog materials for their school library media center collection in a variety of formats during the grant year.
- Provide data and rationale supporting collections developed with grant funds.
- Develop or enhance a marketing communication program for the school library using the American Library Association’s “Campaign for America’s Libraries Toolkit for School Library Media Programs @ your library.” (<http://www.ala.org/ala/pio/campaign/schoollibrary/schoollibrary.htm>)
- Include a component of cooperation with a local public library (refer to MBLC’s *Policy on Cooperation between School Libraries and Public Libraries*).

Grant budget allocation: No less than \$3000 will be spent on library resources and cataloging of grant materials. If additional paid staffing for hours beyond regular school hours is required to carry out the

project's activities, no more than \$500 of the total grant amount may be used for this purpose. In addition, no more than \$500 can be used for equipment and no more than \$750 may be used for honorariums for performers or speakers. All purchases (collections and equipment) funded with this grant are the property of the school library media center and should be housed there except when on loan (purchases may not be indefinitely loaned to another location).

Grants for \$5,000 will be funded under this competitive grant program.

### **ELIGIBILITY**

- Have a long-range plan on file at the MBLC by October 1, 2007 that meets the requirements of the *Massachusetts Long-Range Plan, 2008-2012* and the *LSTA Policies and Procedures 2008-2012*. If a plan is already on file, an updated Action Plan for FY2009 must be on file by **December 3, 2007**. (Please note: In order for an individual school to apply for a Library Incentive Grant, the school must have its own, accepted Long-Range Plan. District-wide Long-Range Plans make a district eligible for **one** Library Incentive Grant, which may be carried out anywhere in the district. The superintendent should sign the SLIG application for a district.)
- Individual school applicants must be members of a regional library system. (If the applicant is a school district, grant funds should be spent only at member schools.)
- Attendance at grant application workshop (January/February 2008) and, if awarded grant, awardees training workshop in October 2008.

### **INTERESTED?**

Applicants must submit a **Letter of Intent** by **December 3, 2007** with the "School Library Incentive Grant" option checked off under **TYPE**. Applicants should refer to the enclosed calendar for due dates in this year's round. An informational workshop to assist applicants in completing an application for this program will be held in late January/early February 2007. For additional information about this program, please contact Marlene Heroux at the MBLC at 800-52-7403, ext. 250 or by e-mail at [marlene.heroux@state.ma.us](mailto:marlene.heroux@state.ma.us).