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New Jersey Association of School Librarians

March 5, 2010

Dear Colleague,

It appears that funding for school libraries may be hit hard as school budgets are slashed due to reduced state and federal funding for education. As school librarians, we must have a strong voice in the current funding debate. We must educate legislators about the positive impact that a well-funded school library program staffed by a state certified school librarian has on student achievement. We must tell them how students will suffer if support for school library programs is cut. We must ask state legislators to work to ensure that school library programs and school librarian positions receive dedicated funding through both state and local budgets.

Now is the time to act. Please contact your state Senator and Assembly Representatives and ask them to ensure that school librarian positions and school library programs are funded in the state budget. Check the "Funding for School Libraries" document to assist you in developing your talking points and questions.

Contact or visit your state legislators' offices to talk to their staff about the need for dedicated state funding for school librarians and library programs. You can locate your state legislators at www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp

Consider attending the NJEA Legislative Dinner in your county and speak with state legislators who attend the event about dedicated funding for school librarian positions and school library programs. Locate a list of NJEA events at <http://njasl.org/NJCountyLegislativeSchedule.htm>. Please provide feedback on your outreach efforts to Mary Moyer at mmoyer@delsearegional.us and share your success stories with your colleagues and NJASL at president@njasl.org

Sincerely,



Pat Massey, President
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