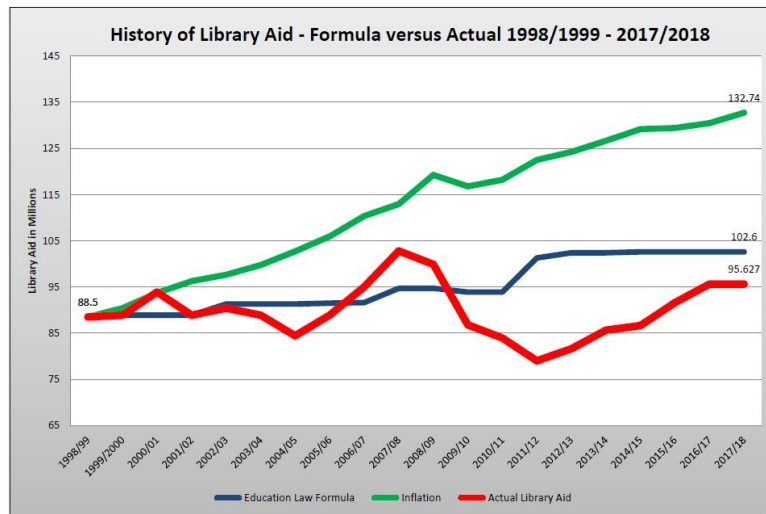


## A Brief History of NYS Library Funding

Between 1998-2006, library systems received no state funding increases, while other educational institutions received generous increases. When economic conditions worsened, libraries were then the first to receive cuts.

**Between 2008-2011, Library Aid suffered six dramatic cuts — a 23% reduction!** In comparison, school aid dropped only 2% during the same period. Small restorations for the past 4 years were a step in the right direction, but we still have a long way to go. **Library Aid remains at 2006 levels, which is unsustainable. Our libraries need adequate resources to serve their communities!**



NEW YORK LIBRARY ASSOCIATION  
Voice of the Library Community

Sources:  
[https://www.nyla.org/max/userfiles/Advocacy/History\\_of\\_Library\\_Aid\\_Chart\\_2017\\_-\\_1991.pdf](https://www.nyla.org/max/userfiles/Advocacy/History_of_Library_Aid_Chart_2017_-_1991.pdf)  
[http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)



Did you know?

**Fully-funded Library Aid would comprise less than one-tenth of 1% of the total state budget.**

## Why are library systems important?

Cuts in Library Aid fall heaviest upon library systems, which serve as the backbone of our information infrastructure. They provide consolidated services, shared programs, and specialized resources that benefit library users and save money for taxpayers.



*Through the Finger Lakes Library System, our local libraries offer access to a wide range of materials and services that they could never afford individually.*

**For every \$1 of State Aid put into a public library system, approximately \$7 in services is provided for public library users.**

## Libraries: Essential in a Tough Economy

- **Library usage and demand for services are surging.** A January 2017 Sienna poll shows that library usage is up statewide over the last 5 years in households making less than \$50,000 annually.
- **Libraries offer essential services.** For 25% of households earning less than \$50,000 annually, and for 20% of African-American and Latino households, the local library is the primary source of internet access.
- **Jobseekers need libraries — often simply to apply for a job!** Of the respondents in the aforementioned Sienna poll using their library for job seeking or career building programs, 53% were African-American and 40% were households making less than \$50,000 annually.

## Libraries ARE Education!

- Libraries are chartered by the same Board of Regents that oversees schools, colleges, BOCES and other educational institutions. Library aid is administered through the NYS Department of Education. Libraries are the leading digital literacy educators in New York State. **When schools close at the end of each day, each week and each school year, libraries remain open to New York's children and families.**



## Increase Funding in NYS Construction Program to \$30M Annually!

- State funding for the Public Library Capital Aid program remained stagnant for a decade prior to recent investment; the accumulated capital needs forced the sale of library buildings, and has eroded operating funds for maintenance.
- Stagnant funding also **disproportionately impacts economically disadvantaged communities**, widening the digital divide.
- Libraries are critical public infrastructure that is rapidly aging. Over 48% of public libraries in NYS are over 60+ years old. This makes them **extremely energy inefficient**, forcing libraries to use operating revenue for energy costs resulting in reduced staffing and programming.

♥♥♥ Thank You For Your Support! ♥♥♥

Please stay in touch to advocate for libraries year-round:

- Visit us online at [www.flls.org/advocacy](http://www.flls.org/advocacy) and [www.facebook.com/fingerlakeslibrarysystem](http://www.facebook.com/fingerlakeslibrarysystem).
- Sign up for the NYLA Action List online at [www.capwiz.com/ala/ny/mlm/signup](http://www.capwiz.com/ala/ny/mlm/signup) to receive timely alerts when libraries need your support.

# 2018 Advocacy Talking Points

**Libraries are the core component of our state's educational infrastructure. A January 2017 Siena Poll found that 92% of New Yorkers say their local library is an important part of our education system, with a majority indicating that library aid should increase each year in proportion with education funding!**



## We Need Your Help!

Please help us maintain your community's core information infrastructure. Last year libraries were funded at \$95.9M placing them at 2006 funding levels. NYS Education Law requires Library Aid for FY 2018– 2019 to be \$102.6 M. Since FY 2007-2008 more than \$118M in statutory State Library Aid has been withheld and Governor's Cuomo's proposed budget cuts for this year will put us back even further.

## How to Help:

- Contact your NYS Assemblyperson and Senator by email, phone, or mail (blank postcards provided).
- Join us in Albany on Wednesday, February 28th to meet with your legislators in person. Free transportation provided! Register by going to [flls.org/calendar-2](http://flls.org/calendar-2).
- Use #FLLSLibraries and #NYLALAD18 when posting on social media about Advocacy Day.



Connecting public libraries in Cayuga, Cortland, Seneca, Tioga, and Tompkins