

2015 Legislative Goals

Dedicated Funding for all Public Libraries

Libraries must have adequate, predictable, sustainable funding to provide the full range of services needed by West Virginians. The West Virginia Library Association (WVLA) strongly supports legislation resulting in dedicated local funding of public libraries.

State Grants-in-Aid and Library Commission Assistance

Assistance from the Library Commission, including per capita Grants-in-Aid, enables **all** libraries to offer a consistent level of service. The West Virginia Library Association (WVLA) encourages the Legislature to at least maintain the current level of funding.

Library Facilities Improvement Fund

There is currently no State or Federal funding specifically for library capital improvements. This legislation establishes a special fund to provide grants to public libraries for capital improvements, renovation and/or repair of existing facilities, and/or technology for facilities. WVLA is not requesting funding at this time just the establishment of the fund. It will permit the Library Commission to develop necessary rules and regulations to govern the administration of the program.

Simple Majority Approval for All Excess Levies

Excess levies provide short-term predictable funding streams for approximately 1/3 of the 97 public library systems. However, the 60% majority requirement for all but Board of Education levies is an insurmountable hurdle for many more.

School Libraries and Certified Librarians in Every School

School libraries and school librarians are essential to quality education but only 46% of public schools in the state have at least a part-time Library Media Specialist. West Virginia students need school libraries in order to achieve.