

SHEER NUMBERS!

More than six million Pennsylvanians rely on their public libraries for homework help, preschool learning opportunities, health information and help starting small businesses and finding jobs.

VOTERS LOVE LIBRARIES

Those who vote in nearly every local election, and who volunteer and donate to charities, are big fans of libraries. Nearly three-quarters have a local library card. Six in 10 of these civically-engaged folks would favor a tax increase to cover library needs, compared with about half of less-engaged citizens.

EARLY LEARNING

Learning starts at birth. Waiting until kindergarten to start helping children learn is too late. During the 0-3 years public library preschool programs – starting with diaper storytimes and following through with toddler tales and “get ready for school” programs – give children the reading and language skills that lead to all future success.

These years offer a “once in a lifetime” opportunity to help children learn how to learn and to help parents be their children’s first and best teacher.

SUMMER READING

In most counties in Pennsylvania the cost of one day of K-12 education is over a million dollars. During the summer too much of that investment is lost. Children fall 2.6 months behind in math skills and 2 months behind in reading skills.

Education experts report that reading – some suggest as few as four books during the summer – can significantly reduce this “summer slide”.

Pennsylvania’s libraries offer a uniform, high quality summer reading program that reaches thousands of children and can reach thousands more with additional state financial support.

Library people know that extended learning during the summer doesn’t require year round school. Summer reading programs through public libraries are a cost effective way to send students back to school ready to learn new skills during those million dollars days.

HOMEWORK HELP

Every year thousands of dollars in federal and state tutoring dollars go unused because people don't know about them or can't qualify for them. Library people believe every student who needs help should get it.

For \$1.18 cents a student Pennsylvania can provide access to highly qualified online tutors for every student. A statewide license for live homework help available through the websites of the states 600+ public libraries can bring homework help into communities large and small. It makes educational and economic sense to use libraries to deliver this service.

A few libraries already offer homework help but many cannot afford individual licenses. Here's what students who use it have to say about live homework help.

- "I loved this idea. They really listen to you and help you. I'm going to start using this a lot cuz I'm not a very good math student but I really understand everything now, and I will tell a friend."
- "Great service. Not all parents can help you with homework."
- "This was so great! I'm a very happy student."
- "My tutor was awesome, so kind, patient, and she gave me confidence about my science test."

RX: HEALTH LITERACY

70% of the health and medical information on the Internet is misleading or outdated. Libraries offer incredible online and print health materials.

The number one reason people come back to libraries after periods of non-use is a medical concern.