

Summer Reading Federal Funds Could End If State Cuts Pass



Parents and teachers know that when their kids take a break from reading, they run the risk of losing important reading skills before school starts back up. For more than half-million Pennsylvania kids, the Summer Reading Club in public libraries maintains and improves their reading skills over summer vacation.

But the Summer Reading Club's future is bleak if state budget cuts become law. You see, the club and numerous other vital library services are supported by federal (LSTA) library funds which require state government to

fully fund libraries. Two budget proposals in Harrisburg fall short of what's needed and would cost Pennsylvania anywhere from \$1 million (H.B. 1416—Rendell/House Democratic bill) to \$3.8 million (S.B. 850—Senate Republican bill) in federal funds, lost money that threatens the future of the Summer Reading Club and much more.

Parents and teachers; kids and librarians are urged to speak up now to prevent the loss of vital federal funds that support great programs like the Summer Reading Club. Please contact your State Senator and State Representative ASAP. Urge them to keep library appropriations in next year's budget at the same amount as this year. This will keep library doors open and will maximize Pennsylvania's return of federal dollars which, in turn, insures that the Summer Reading Club will continue next year.

Please send copies of your personal notes, personal letters and emails to:

Governor Ed Rendell

225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

http://sites.state.pa.us/PA_Exec/Governor/govmail.html

and

Clare Zales

Commissioner of Libraries
PA Department of Education
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Harrisburg, PA 17126-1745
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Visit www.palibraries.org for legislative updates, Talking Points, FAQ, Advocacy, Nuggets and Soundbites. Please complete and send in a Commitment Form to let us know about your advocacy.

Please let Glenn Miller know of any feedback you receive from your legislators. Send him an email at glenn@palibraries.org or fax to 717-766-5440.

Thanks for stepping up your efforts and recruiting more library advocates at this critical time.

Margie Stern
Coordinator, Youth Services
Delaware County Library System