

LIBRARY MATERIALS AID

REQUEST: \$11.33/PUPIL

What is Library Materials Aid (LMA)?

- LMA is a category of Instructional Materials Aid, along with Textbook, Software, and Computer Hardware & Equipment Aid. It is intended to supplement local funds budgeted for school library program support.
- LMA is allocated to school districts via reimbursement, with a maximum award set by law as \$6.25 per public and non-public school student residing within a school district's boundaries.
- LMA, in conjunction with all categories of Instructional Materials Aid, is critical for reducing inequitable access to educational resources and technology.

What is LMA Used For?

- School library materials eligible for reimbursement include digital materials, audio/visual materials, and printed materials that are catalogued and processed as part of the school library or media center for use by elementary and/or secondary school children and teachers, are expected to last more than one year after use, and are ineligible for Textbook or Software Aid.
- Examples of materials eligible for aid include hard cover and paperback books, e-books, print and digital periodicals, print and digital published materials, and documents other than books, such as pamphlets, musical scores, videos, audio recordings, maps, charts, or globes.
- **When funded adequately, these resources ensure school library collections are modern, culturally responsive, reflect student interest, and meet the diverse educational needs of the students they serve.**

What Do We Need?

- For FY2026, NYLA request an increase of the LMA per pupil rate from \$6.25 to \$11.33
- The per-pupil allocation for Library Materials Aid has remained flat since 2007.
- District costs for library materials have increased substantially since 2007. When purchased by a school library, the average cost of a new hardcover title is \$26.25.
- For FY2023, New York State Board of Regents recommended increasing LMA to \$10.55/pupil and tying future adjustments to inflation.
- Chapter 571 of the Laws of 2023 expanded LMA to include digital materials. Without increasing funding, existing aid will either be diluted, or the new eligibilities will go unutilized.
- Updating the per pupil allocation for each library materials aid to reflect inflation would benefit students in and out of the classroom.