



## **Library Materials Aid (LMA)** ***Budget Request: \$11.00/pupil***

### **What is Library Materials Aid?**

- Library Materials Aid is a category of Instructional Materials Aid, along with Textbook, Software, and Computer Hardware & Equipment Aid. These aids are critical for reducing inequitable access to educational technology.
- These aids are allocational, with a maximum amount of reimbursement per-district based on a fixed amount per pupil.

### **What is LMA used for?**

- School library materials eligible for reimbursement include digital materials, audio/visual materials, and printed materials that meet the following criteria:
  - Materials which are catalogued and processed as part of the school library or media center for use by elementary and/or secondary school children and teachers.
  - Materials expected to last more than one year after use.
  - Materials 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.

### **How has LMA been funded in the past?**

- ***Despite moderate increases to LMA during the first 5 years of its inception aid has remained flat since 2007 and is currently \$6.25 per student attending public or non-public schools within a school district's boundaries.*** Aid is calculated by multiplying the number of enrolled pupils in a school district by \$6.25
  - Timeline: 1994 (\$2) ➔ 1995 (\$4) ➔ 1998 (\$6) ➔ 2007 (\$6.25)

### **NYLA Budget Request**

- District costs for library materials have increased substantially since 2007. Updating the per pupil allocation for each library materials aid to reflect inflation would benefit students in and out of the classroom.
- When purchased by a school library, the average cost of a new hardcover children's title is \$21.31.
- 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.
- The New York State Board of Regents has recommended increasing LMA to \$10.55/pupil and tying future adjustments to inflation.
- ***NYLA supports the Board of Regents' proposal but requests a further increase of the per pupil rate from \$6.25 ➔ \$11.00***

