

Resolution to Increase Funding for the Improving Literacy through School Libraries Program to \$100 Million
2010 ALA Annual Conference

WHEREAS, Students with strong school libraries staffed by state-certified school librarians learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests; and

WHEREAS, Students must master 21st century skills to compete in today's global economy and participate as informed citizens; and

WHEREAS, School libraries educate students in the critical, specialized thinking skills that are identified in the AASL Standards for the 21st Century Learner and are essential to college and career readiness; and

WHEREAS, School libraries ensure that all students have equal opportunity to master the 21st century skills necessary to participate in the digital age; and

WHEREAS, The Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program improves student literacy skills and academic achievement by providing increased access to up-to-date library materials, well-equipped technologically advanced school libraries, and well-trained state-certified school librarians; and

WHEREAS, The United States Department of Education rates the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program as highly effective in improving the quality of those school libraries receiving the grants; and

WHEREAS, The Improving Literacy through School Libraries program facilitates student learning in critical 21st century skill areas by providing 24/7 access to essential information resources; and

WHEREAS, The Improving Literacy through School Libraries program was authorized at \$250 million but currently only appropriated at \$19.1 million, with the result that, of 450 applicants in FY2009, only 57 school libraries from 23 states received funding; and

WHEREAS, The Improving Literacy through School Libraries program must receive appropriations at a minimum of \$100 million to make this program a population-based state grant so that all states receive equitable funding; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the American Library Association (ALA):

1. Urges Congress to commit a minimum of \$100 million designated specifically for school libraries in FY2011 and beyond to the Improving Literacy Through School Libraries program to establish a population-based state grant program that provides students in every state the opportunity to increase reading achievement and master 21st century skills.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Tuesday, June 29, 2010
In Washington, DC