

Background Information

The School and Library Improvement Block Grant

WHAT

Assembly Bill 825, Chapter 871 (Statutes of 2004), consolidates 26 categorical programs into six block grants and takes effect in fiscal year 2005-2006. Of importance and interest to schools is the School and Library Improvement Block Grant. Most schools are already familiar with the School Improvement Program (SIP) and with funding from the California Public School Library Act of 1998. AB 825 combines these two funds to create the **School and Library Improvement Block Grant**. It replaces the Library Act funds as we have known them for the past six years. For more information, visit the Frequently Asked Questions on AB 825 at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ce/faqslibq05.asp>

WHO

The power to apportion the School and Library Improvement Block Grant is assigned to school site councils who, along with faculty, staff, and administrators using a site decision-making process, will determine the school's priorities.

A **Library Plan** is still required but in addition to a district library plan, the single school plan must also contain a library plan. Districts should keep the district library plan to provide a vision for school site councils. **Funding amounts** for school libraries will vary from school to school as determined at two levels—the district level and the site level. A district can allocate funds at the district level as well as to schools within the district. The school site council determines how the funding will be used at the site. A site council might decide to commit x-number of dollars per student, a block of funds, all, or nothing toward library development.

For a Power Point presentation on the composition and responsibilities of a school site council, see http://csfp.ocde.us/downloads/role_ssc_plan_temp.ppt

WHEN

Now is the time to create visibility and support and begin promoting libraries and library programs. It is an opportunity to educate parents, administrators and teachers about the importance of a good school library and to assist in creating the library plan.

Use the tools CSLA has provided to get started. Please check back for new links and tools. As the California Department of Education works through its implementation of the law, CSLA will develop more materials for your use.

- If you create your own materials and wish to share, please send them to Connie Williams, chwms@mac.com.
- Do you have site council experience? Can you offer tips about successfully working with such a group?
- Are you part of the CSLA listserv, calibk12? To subscribe, see <http://www.csla.net>. You won't want to miss discussion about our new block grant.

