

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 that took effect in fiscal 2005-2006. Of importance and interest to all 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 FAQs regarding Assembly Bill 825, Chapter 871 see <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ce/faqslibg05.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 Site Plan must contain a Library Component. Districts should keep the District Library Plan to provide a vision for School Site Councils.

Parents and others who wish to watch the process develop can log onto the CSLA listserv, CALIBK12. To subscribe, see <http://www.csla.net>. Scan to the bottom of the page to sign up.

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 allocated 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. Apportionment amounts are posted at: <http://www.cde.ca.gov/fg/aa/ce/>.

WHEN

Now is the time to build knowledge, visibility, and support and to spread the news about libraries and library programs. It is an opportunity for parents, administrators, teachers and library staff to provide information about the importance of a good school library and to assist each other in creating both the District Library Plan and the school-site Library Plan.

For this purpose, CSLA has prepared tools to help school site councils get started. See: http://www.csla.net/res/sip_toolkit.htm. 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. Once you create your own Site Plan, please share it with us so that others can benefit from your experience.

California School Library Association

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11-22-05 TOOL KIT: http://www.csla.net/res/sip_toolkit.htm