

FUND OUR FUTURE WASHINGTON



Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology (WCS-Lit)

THE NEED

In 2003, only 56% percent of Washington school library media centers had a full-time paid teacher librarian.* In the past five years further cuts have affected school libraries in every corner of Washington State. Today the average age of Washington school library collections dates to 1982.

In order to prepare our children for future success, they will need 21st century skills. The new basic skills of this era include reading fluency, information processing and evaluation, and a solid foundation in technology skills. A sound school library program delivers these critical skills.

THE MESSAGE

Your constituents – including parents, business and community leaders, educators, elected local officials – have all weighed in . . .

Please make funding our school libraries a top priority and be a champion for our children, our workforce and our communities.

THE REQUEST

We respectfully request that you support House Bill #2773 and Senate Bill #6380 in the 2008 session.

THE RESEARCH-BASED EVIDENCE

The U.S. Commission on Libraries and Information Science summarizes decades of research showing that:

Students in schools with good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized tests than their peers in schools without libraries.

Strong school library media programs are fundamental to 21st century K-12 education.

The Washington Coalition for School Libraries and Information Technology believes that all students across the state, urban and rural, deserve the same access to technology, the same chance to develop literacy, and the same opportunity for a first-class education.

For more information, please visit our website: www.fundourfuturewashington.org

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*NCES (National Center for Education Statistics)