



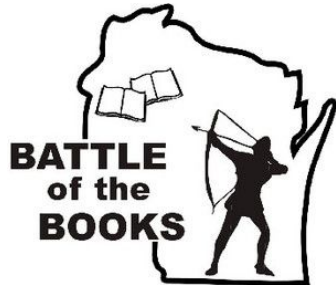
The Common School Fund

Strong School Libraries Make Strong Students



Committed to providing leadership and professional growth opportunities to promote quality learning and information access to meet the needs of our educational community.

School Library and IT Professionals Professional Development: Conference P.E.T. Scholarships & Grants





School libraries provide equitable physical and intellectual access to the resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment.

American Association of School Librarians. 2007. Standards for the 21st Century Learner. Chicago: ALA.





The Common School Fund is a Constitutional Requirement

“to the support and maintenance of common [public K-12] schools ... and the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus therefor.”



CSF is Critical for School Libraries

Common School Fund is the **only** dedicated state funding for K-12 school libraries

In most districts, it is the only funding the school library receives

2017-18 School Year= \$30.22 per child





2017-18 CSF School Library Funding

Campbellsport: \$59,979

Oostburg: \$42,332

Cedar Grove-Belgium: \$40,489

Port Washington-Saukville: \$114,548

Edgerton: \$66,143

Sheboygan Area: \$395,224

Milton: \$141,773

Slinger: \$108,505

Milwaukee: \$4,732,921

Whitewater: \$65,931

Total Funding: \$35.7 million



92%

Of WEMTA Respondents Surveyed said CSF is
the only funding they receive



WEMTA Members Report:

“This is the **sole source of library funding** for my small rural K-8 school.”

“The Common School Fund is the **primary source of funds** for all of the libraries, PreK-12, in my district.”

“My library **budgets would be next to nothing** if the Common School Fund investment and use were to change.”

“Common School Funds is **the only money that I have** to spend for our students in the library.”

“The CSF is my only source of funding and **I'm afraid the library would close without it.**”

School Libraries Use CSF Dollars For:

- Audiovisual materials
- Maker Space/STEM
- Library books (includes audio & e-books)
- Computer equipment and software
 - (Apps, mobile devices, & subscription databases)
- Research databases including newspapers and periodicals




The CSF program aligns to the Wisconsin Digital Learning Plan's strategic goal of providing equitable services and resources to all staff and students.



Ensures Equitable Digital Access

Technology and Infrastructure

 Provides and advocates for equitable access to connectivity, digital devices, information, resources, programming, and services in support of the district's strategic vision.

Invests Strategically in Digital Resources

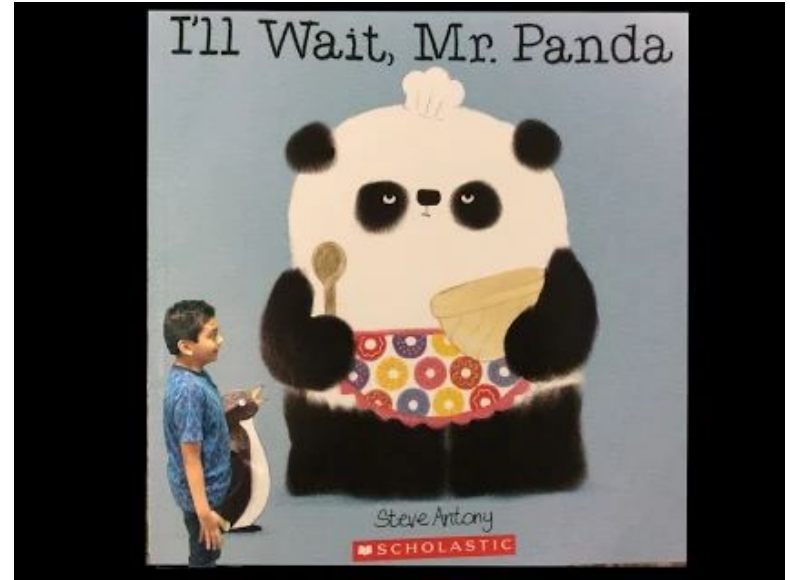
Budget and Resources

 Leverages an understanding of school and community needs to identify and invest in digital resources to support student learning.

CSF Makes Engaging Learning Activities Possible

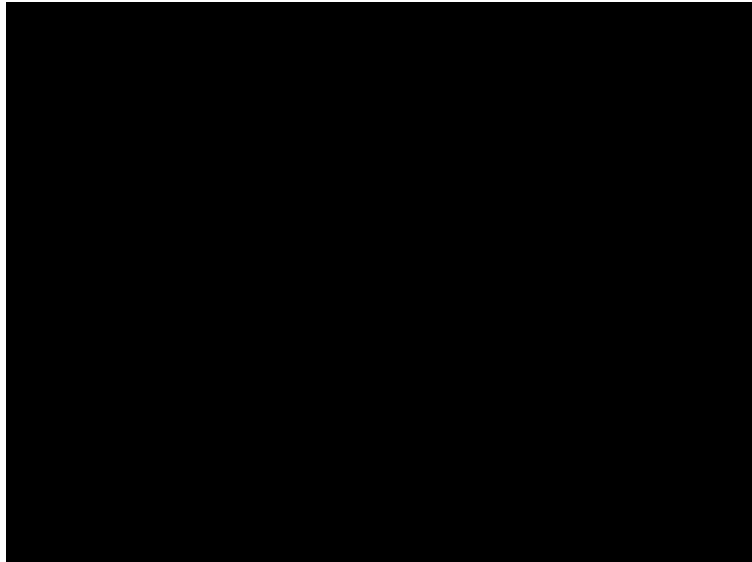


Students are exploring virtual reality through [Google Expeditions](#).



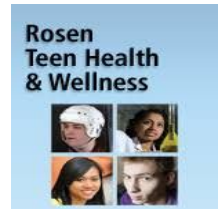
Students use the green screen and *Do-Ink* app to “Jump” into their favorite books.

Research Databases + Curriculum + Software + Devices = Learning



Students research and learn about plants and weather,
and integrate technology to demonstrate knowledge

Research Databases



Print Resources

Reading is a university course in life; it makes us smarter by increasing our vocabulary and background knowledge of countless topics.

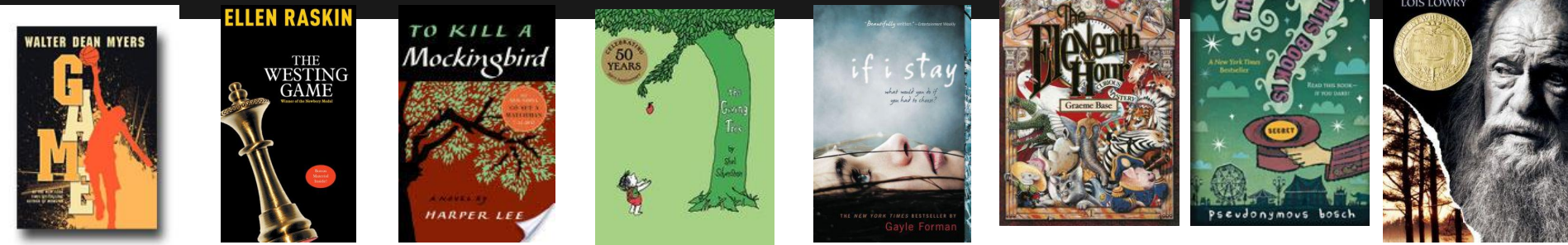
[Donalyn Miller, *The Book Whisperer: Awakening the Inner Reader in Every Child*](#)





Responsive Libraries

From 6-Beta and Beyond



School Libraries Are Linked to Student Achievement

Pennsylvania School Library Study

Library resources spending levels are associated with better State Reading scores for all students at both ends of the achievement spectrum.

- ❑ Advanced Reading scores are higher and Below Basic Reading scores lower for students who have better-funded school library programs than for those who do not.
- ❑ This trend applies to all students, regardless of their socio-economic, racial/ethnic, and disability status.



Wisconsin School Library Standings



- ❑ **2nd** for both the average number of student visits to library/media centers in U.S. public schools (tied with 3 other states) and average number of books checked out
- ❑ **3rd** in the Percentage of library/media centers in U.S. public schools that provide student access to online licensed databases

U.S. Department of Education, NCES, SASS, Public School and Public School Library Media Center Data Files, SY 2011–12.

www.nea.org/assets/docs/Trends%20in%20School%20Library%20Media%20Centers%20Full%20Report.pdf

School libraries extend learning beyond the classroom

Students who don't have Internet at home can check out filtered wireless hotspots from their Library Media Center, allowing them to access research databases.





Students use problem solving and critical thinking skills to perfect their Art Robot in STEAM Club.



Sixth Graders use the makerspace station in the Library Media Center to build a windmill.

Students used the 3D printer to make and sell cookie cutters as part of their Economics unit.





99%

Of WEMTA Members Surveyed **Oppose**
Removing the Requirement that CSF Dollars Go
to School Libraries



“Without CSF, my school library would not be able to provide crucial school-wide resources. The library budget supplies books, subscriptions, databases and devices that are available to every student and teacher.”

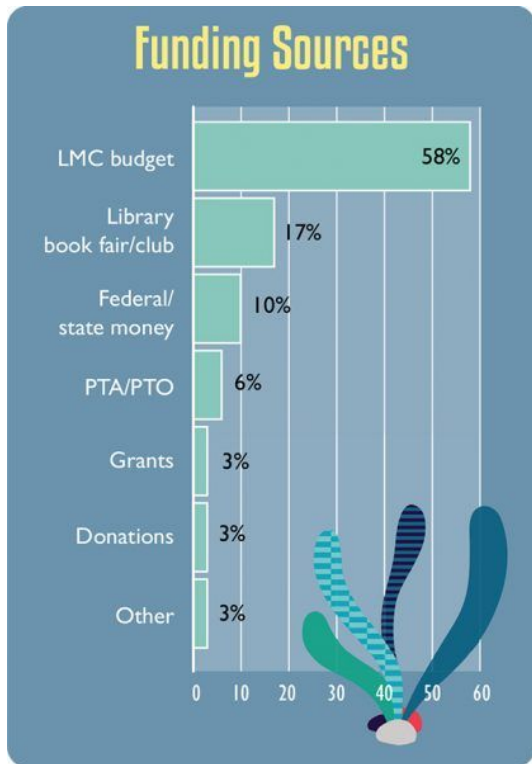
--A WEMTA Member



K-12 School Libraries and Students Need the CSF

1. It is the only dedicated source of state funding for K-12 school libraries
2. In many districts, it is the only funding the school library receives
3. CSF helps schools keep their collections up-to-date.
4. Research is clear: School Libraries help students build 21st Century Skills
5. Without CSF, some districts would not have a school library

Lessons from Other States



No dedicated funding sources result in inequities

Book fairs and parent organizations represent a significant portion of the budget - problems for high poverty areas

Nearly one in five librarians said a change in school leadership impacted library funding

Source: School Library Journal's 2017 Spending Survey



BCPL and the Common School Fund

How the Common School Fund Grows

Revenue



Revenue from fines, forfeitures, timber sales and unclaimed property help build the fund

Loans & Bonds



The principal of the Fund is used to give loans to villages, towns, cities, counties and school districts for public projects

Investments



Investments by the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) staff keep the fund strong and working for the students of Wisconsin



BCPL Loans have Helped School Libraries and Public Libraries

- Coon Valley Public Library
- Drummond Public Library
- DeForest Public Library
- Tomah Public Library
- Verona Public Library
- Fitchburg Public Library
- Eastern Shores Library System





BCPL Provides Consistent Funding for CSF

From 2008-18:

- CSF Distributions Averaged \$33.5 million
- Never dipped below \$30 million
- Continued to make disbursements even after the 2008 market crash:
 - 2008: \$35,000,000
 - 2009: \$35,300,000



WEMTA Members Want a Reliable and Consistent Funding Source

“I'd rather investments be more conservative and steady than a higher risk investment strategy and then some years there isn't any money.”

--A WEMTA Member



Suggestions

Ensure that the CSF is receiving all constitutionally required revenue streams:

Fines & Forfeitures:

- Examine if the CSF is receiving all constitutionally required deposits through an LAB audit of the revenue streams that should be going into the CSF
- Consider ways to strengthen reporting and tracking of constitutionally required deposits

Interest from Loans:

- Continue the State Trust Fund Loan Program

Common School Fund:

- Maintain the Fund as the dedicated source of school library funding



*On behalf of WEMTA Members,
Thank you*