

To: CCSD 89 Board of Education
From: Dr. Jill Kingsfield
Date: November 17, 2025
Re: School Library Per Capita Grant

Background of the Program

The Grants for School Libraries Program was established in legislation, Illinois Library System Act (75 ILCS 10/8/04). This unique grant program authorizes these funds to support the services of Illinois school districts' library programs and services. This grant program was signed into law in 1989 after authorization by Public act 86-518. The 1993 passage of House Bill 526 authorized the minimum grant to be \$100 per school district. For FY25 the per-pupil rate for the School Library District Grant remained \$0.885 per student of schools with a qualified school library, which continues for FY26. Our allocation for the 2024-25 school year was \$1885.05, per the grant award letter sent to the District in February 2025. The allocation for the FY26 school year has not yet been allocated.

Purpose

Grant funds must be used to support the services of the district's school library media program. The primary purpose of this grant is to provide quality library services, books, and materials to support students' learning.

This may include but is not limited to:

- Purchase of library books and other library materials
- Purchase and maintenance of equipment located in the library and used by staff and/or students as part of regular library services
- Professional development of the library staff
- Library computers and telecommunications costs

Grant funds may not be used for capital improvements such as attached shelving, wiring, or remodeling. Illinois Statutes require school boards to review the library's progress towards meeting the Illinois standards for school library media centers. The Illinois standards focus on three components: learning and teaching, information access, and program administration. Based on these areas, the following items for FY26 will be taken into consideration when determining use of this year's allocation:

- Acquiring reading materials that will reflect the diverse cultures and backgrounds of our students and families
- Building non-fiction resources to meet the requirements of the Illinois Learning Standards
- Developing and acquiring resources, including consumable, to further develop hands-on, problem based learning opportunities in the school libraries or during classroom lessons within the constraints of a limited budget

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