



Help Restore Media Center Funds Today!

School library media centers are education equalizers

The school library media center is the great equalizer in the education equation and provides media materials to all students and all teachers regardless of their demographics. Whether it be college prep or vocational, school library media materials support the learning and media specialists help prepare students for future learning by providing information that will lead the seeker to success.

According to the U.S. Commission on Libraries and Information Science, "Students in schools with good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized test scores than their peers in schools without libraries.

Media Center Funding in GA

In 2002, Media Centers earned \$19.54 per FTE. In 2003, media funds were cut from \$19.54 to \$9.77 per FTE. The average cost of a book was \$18.58.

Today, Elementary School Media Centers earn \$15.31 per FTE, while Middle and High School Media Centers earn \$13.03 per FTE.

The Cost of Learning

Elementary and Middle School figures listed below are from the 2007 School Library Journal. High School figures are from the 2006 School Library Journal.

Elementary School Media Centers

The average cost of a book is \$18.70.

Middle School Media Centers

The average cost of a fiction book is \$17.24.

The average cost of a nonfiction book is \$26.68.

High School Media Centers

The average cost of a fiction book is \$26.83.

The average cost of a nonfiction book is \$42.32.

The average cost of a reference book is \$85.91. Titles include: American Writers (multi-volume set) \$180.96/volume; Notorious Lives (biographical reference set) \$251.96/3 volumes.

"Principals have adjusted cost center budgets for the media centers based on the proceeds of book fairs. Copier leases for the entire building and media paraprofessional salaries have been acceptable uses of media center allocations."

-Metro RESA District.

"Some of my funds are used to purchase replacement bulbs for the LCD projectors installed in classrooms. The cost of the bulbs are \$150 each!"

-Northwest RESA District.



AROUND THE STATE



"The allotment in one of the schools in our county has been used to buy fax machines for the office, screens to be installed in classrooms, and other classroom equipment, rather than library equipment for student use. Our county did not get the full allotment of book money last year, because the financial officer for the county said he did not get notification that the amount had increased. When provided with proof, he said the money had already been spent on items to benefit the district as a whole. We never got specifics as to what had been purchased

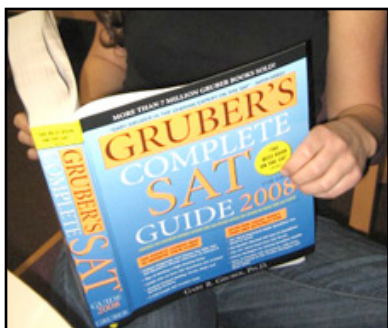
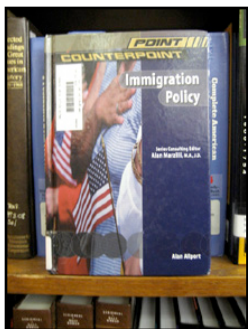
that might fit into the media category." (North GA RESA District)

"The questionable items that I have to purchase with media funds include:

1. Laminating film (non-library usage)
2. Roll Butcher Paper at about \$1,000 per year
3. Printer cartridges for media center printers"

(Pioneer RESA District)

AROUND THE STATE - CONTINUED



Point/Counterpoint: Social issues debate-reference books cost, at minimum, \$34.00 per book. There are 33 volumes in this series.

Study Guides: Test guides are popular among all students. There is consistent demand for the guides, however budgets don't allow for adequate supply in most schools..

“When the DOE changes the curriculum, many items in our media centers across the state become less useful if not obsolete. For example, when they shift Georgia history from 3rd grade to 1st, the materials in my collection are less useful because they are written for upper grades and we are trying to use them with first graders! I realize that curriculum changes are necessary, but we also need funding to keep up with all the changes. With any money that I receive, I always buy books first for our students and teachers. Professional materials and “decorative” posters, etc. I purchase with my own money.” (West GA RESA District)

“Last year, we had 650 students and I got \$3,000 to spend, which barely covered the technical support and online subscriptions, but no books. And this was in a new school. At that time, the state funds should have been \$13.03 per FTE (our budget should have been \$8,469.50). If the words ‘media

funds’ can be specified, and systems made to follow it, our school libraries would be in better shape.” (North GA RESA District)

“If funding was increased I would be able to purchase much needed updates and upgrades for my software programs that were purchased through the initial InTech funding and are now out of date.” (First RESA District)

“Media Center funds were used to purchase cement picnic tables on which the teachers may eat lunch.” (Metro RESA District)

“Our principal used our Media Center funds to purchase a big screen TV for the cafeteria and told us about it after the fact.” (North GA RESA District)

“My media allotment was used to buy headphones for the computer lab.”
(Pioneer RESA District)

WHO IS A MEDIA SPECIALIST? WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SCHOOL MEDIA CENTER?

Media Specialists in Georgia have a Master's Degree in Library Science or Instructional Technology.

Students need to be taught to access information whether it is in a book, on the computer, or in a video. Media Specialists are the teachers who teach students how to be information literate.



Books aren't the only tools Media Specialists use to teach students. Computers, multimedia hardware, interactive software, online databases including the rich resources of GALILEO, the Internet, and Web 2.0 tools are also provided in school media centers to increase student learning.

The Media Center is the largest classroom in the school.

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED MORE INFORMATION?



Contact Lasa Joiner or Michelle Crider at the GLMA Executive Office - 404-299-7700 or lasaj@jlh-consulting.com, michelle@jlh-consulting.com.

Visit the GLMA website: www.glma-inc.org.