

VIII. Old Business

A. Additional information on elementary school library budgets – information item

Through the **School Library Access (SLA) Mini-Grant Program**, the Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) has awarded \$1,479,000 in state funds to 253 elementary schools since the 2012-2013 school year. Grants range from \$1,000-\$5,000 and are primarily used to purchase library books. Over the years, the SLA Mini-Grant Program has funded books for a few different purposes:

1. Round 1 grants provide funds to buy books for pre-K, kindergarten, and first graders to take home to read with their families;
2. Summer Access grants provided funding for school libraries to remain open over the summers of 2017 and 2018 to increase the amount of reading done over the summer, thereby reducing the summer slide; and
3. Round 2 grants provide funding to buy books to encourage children in all the grades in an elementary school to take books home to read. This grant requires a 25 percent match from the school district to encourage schools to allocate funds to an annual book budget line item.

Both Round 2 and Summer Access recipients must have received a Round 1 grant to be eligible to apply. An important piece of this grant program is the professional development school librarians receive when they are awarded these funds.

A result of the grant program and the professional development, interim, and final reports and a follow-up study completed in 2017, show that elementary school library staff have changed policies to allow all students in the lower grades to check out at least two books per week starting the first semester of school, including students in the developmental preschool programs. Prior to receiving state funds for this program, surveys and informal research showed some schools were not allowing students in lower grades to check out books to take home as many school library staff thought they'd see more book loss from students in K-1 grades. The grant program has changed their minds and changed practices. The ICfL staff also hoped that library budgets would increase and that schools that had no or low book budgets would create an annual book budget line item as teachers and administrators witnessed student excitement about access to new and interesting books on their level that they could take home and read with adults in their lives. Unfortunately, anecdotal information and information gleaned from grant applications do not show a significant increase in most school library budgets.

Last year a partnership with the Idaho Lottery through the **Bucks for Books Award Program** resulted in an additional \$30,000 awarded to 12 elementary schools. For the 2020-2021 school year, \$40,000 in grants ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 will be awarded and distributed by the end of 2020.

The goals of both of these programs are to improve elementary school library collections and increase the amount of reading done in the homes of elementary school students, all with the ultimate goal of increasing the number of children who are reading on grade level and becoming proficient readers.

The ideal book budget for a school library depends on the size of the student body. According to the International Reading Association, a school library should contain a minimum of 20 books per student (excluding class and reading circle sets). The school or school district should provide an annual book

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budget enough to add two new books per year for each student to replace old, worn, and/or outdated books. According to “School Library Journal,” the average 2020 prices for hardcover library books for an elementary library are:

- Fiction: \$15.01
- Library binding nonfiction: \$27.18
- Nonfiction: \$19.20
- Graphic novels: \$18.41

When comparing book budgets to the price of a single book, it is easy to see that in most elementary schools, librarians are struggling to meet the academic and recreational reading needs of their students.

One might assume that the larger school districts in the state provide support for their school library book budgets, but that is not necessarily true. Some of our largest school districts provide no budget, and librarians must rely on book fairs and donations to fill the shelves. It is an uneven system that often results in collections being built according to titles provided by the bookfair vendor the school uses rather than the academic and recreational reading needs of students and teachers. This is not to imply that schools should not hold bookfairs; they are an important way for students to buy affordable books for their personal libraries and a great source for extra funds for the library. However, bookfairs should not be the foundation of a school’s book budget.

Some schools provide a regular annual budget that is calculated from a formula using the number of students attending the school. In this more equitable system, librarians can depend on that budget for long-term collection development planning and prioritization and have funds on hand that can be used to meet demand for popular titles.

The following data has been collected from more than 200 applications received for both grant programs for the last three years. The budget figures are self-reported and not verified. Some budget figures may include one-time windfalls such as donations, levy dollars, or grant funds, but may not reflect a regular line-item budget. When schools appeared as duplicates, the most recent year reported was used, resulting in data from 160 elementary school budgets.

Of those 160 schools, 103 (64.3 percent) had district book budgets of less than \$1,000 (see breakdown below). A spreadsheet providing the raw data is also provided.

School book budgets for 160 schools that applied in the last three years:

School Book Budget	Number of Applicants	Percentage of Applicants
No budget	48 applicants	30%
\$1 - \$500	29 applicants	18.2%
\$501 - \$1,000	27 applicants	16.9%
\$1,001 - \$2,000	27 applicants	16.9%
\$2,001 - \$3,000	8 applicants	5%
\$3,001+	20 applicants	12.5%

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Elementary School:	School District:	Grades served:	#Students	Budget	\$/student:
A J Winters Elementary	Bear Lake County #33	K-5	317	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 6.31
A W Johnson Elementary	Firth School District #59	PK-4	325	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 3.08
A. B. McDonald Elementary	Moscow School District	PK-5	411	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 4.87
Acequia	Minidoka School District #331	K-5	319	\$ -	\$ -
Adams Elementary	Madison School District #321	K-4	303	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.65
AH Bush Elementary	Idaho Falls School District #91	K-6	400	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.25
Alturas Elementary	Blaine County School District	K-5	418	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 11.96
Amity	Boise School District #001	P-6	560	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 7.50
Ammon Elementary	Bonneville Joint School District 93	K-6	319	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3.76
Ashton Elementary	Fremont SD #215	K-5	250	\$ 500.00	\$ 2.00
Bickel Elementary School	Twin Falls School District	K-5	206	\$ -	\$ -
Birch Elementary Library	Vallivue School District	K-5	646	\$ 435.00	\$ 0.67
Borah Elementary	#271	K-5	400	\$ 450.00	\$ 1.13
Bridgewater Elementary	Bonneville Joint School District #93	K-6	505	\$ -	\$ -
Bryan Elementary School	Coeur d'Alene School District #271	K-5	404	\$ -	\$ -
Burton Elementary School	Madison School District #321	P-4	609	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 2.96
Camas County Elementary School	Camas County Schools District #121	K-12	175	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 8.57
Carey Public School	Blaine County School District #61	PK-6	127	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7.87
Cecil D. Andrus Elementary	West Ada School District	K-5	660	\$ 0.00	\$ -
Centennial Elementary	Nampa School District 131	K-5	485	\$ -	\$ -
Central Elementary	Sugar-Salem School District #322	PK-3	426	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2.35
Central Elementary	Nampa School district 131	K-5	350	\$ -	\$ -
Challis Elementary School	Challis School District #181	K-6	156	\$ 400.00	\$ 2.56
Christine Donnell School of the Arts	West Ada School District	K-6	500	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.20
Cloverdale Elementary	Bonneville Joint District #93	K-6	520	\$ -	\$ -
Connor Academy	Academy Charter School District # 460	K-8	561	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3.57

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Council Elementary School	Council Local District #13	PK-6	177	\$ -	\$ -
Cynthia Mann Elementary	Boise Independent Dist. #001	K-6	364	\$ 3,844.00	\$ 10.56
Declo Elementary	Cassia School District #151	K-5	445	\$ -	\$ -
Desert Sage Elementary	West Ada School District #2	P-5	663	\$ -	\$ -
Desert Springs Elementary School	Vallivue	K-5	655	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.53
Discovery Elementary	Bonneville Joint School District #93	K-6	656	\$ -	\$ -
Donald D. Stalker	Blackfoot School District #55	K-5	264	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.89
Downey Elementary School	Marsh Valley School District 21	PK-6	95	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 15.79
Driggs Elementary Library	Teton School District #401	PK-3	306	\$ 2,440.00	\$ 7.97
Eagle Hills Elementary	West Ada Joint #2	K-5	605	\$ -	\$ -
Fairview Elementary School	Bonneville Joint School District #93	K-6	316	\$ -	\$ -
Falls Valley Elementary	Bonneville School District #93	PK-6	501	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2.99
Fernan STEM Academy	Coeur D'Alene School District #271	K-5	400	\$ -	\$ -
Filer Elementary School	Filer School District #413	PK-3	454	\$ 500.00	\$ 1.10
Fruitland Elementary School	Fruitland School District #373	PK-4	667	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7.50
Future Public School	Future Public School Single-site District 499	K-4	303	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 9.90
Genesee Elementary School	Genesee School Dist. #282	K-6	161	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 6.21
Georgetown Elementary	Bear Lake School District #33	K-5	102	\$ 850.00	\$ 8.33
Glenns Ferry Elementary	Glenns Ferry School District #192	PK-6s	238	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 4.20
Gooding Elementary & Middle School	Gooding Joint School District #231	PK-8	850	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3.53
Grace Elementary School	Grace School District #148	P-6	215	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 5.58
Greensferry Elementary School	Post Falls #273	1-5	423	\$ 392.00	\$ 0.93
Groveland Elementary	Blackfoot School District #55	K-5	198	\$ 600.00	\$ 3.03
Hagerman Elementary School	Hagerman Joint School District #233	K-6	257	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 5.45
Hailey Elementary	Blaine County School District #61	PK-5	398	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 5.03
Hansen Elementary	Hansen School District #415	PK-6	188	\$ 500.00	\$ 2.66

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Harrison Elementary School	Twin Falls School District #411	PK-5	449	\$ -	\$ -
Hayden Meadows Elementary	Coeur d'Alene School District #271	K-5	525	\$ -	\$ -
Hazel Stuart Elementary	Shelley School District #60	5and6	376	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 6.65
Henry's Fork Elementary	Fremont School District #215	PK-5	560	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.79
Heritage Community Charter School	Heritage Community Charter	K-8	532	\$ -	\$ -
Heyburn Elementary School	St. Maries Joint School district #41	K-5	401	\$ -	\$ -
Hillcrest Elementary	American Falls School District	PreK-3	483	\$ 3,134.00	\$ 6.49
Hillcrest Elementary School	Boise School District	PK-6	346	\$ 3,725.00	\$ 10.77
Hillsdale Elementary	West Ada School District #2	P-5	795	\$ -	\$ -
Hillview Elementary	Bonneville Joint School District 93	K-6	514	\$ -	\$ -
Hollister Elementary School	Filer School District #413	K-5	53	\$ 123.20	\$ 2.32
Homedale Elementary School	#370	K-4	460	\$ 3,037.50	\$ 6.60
Horizon Elementary	Jerome Joint School District #261	PK-3	600	\$ 4,925.00	\$ 8.21
Horizon Elementary	Boise School District	PreK-6	655	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 7.33
Horizon Elementary Kindergarten Center	Jerome Joint School District #261	PK-K	120	\$ 6,175.00	\$ 51.46
Hunter Elementary	West Ada School District	K-5	770	\$ 0.00	\$ -
I.B. Perrine Elementary	Twin Falls School District #411	K-5	456	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2.19
Idaho Arts Charter School	Idaho Arts Charter School #795	K-4	600	\$ -	\$ -
Idaho School for the Deaf and the Blind	Idaho Educational Services for the Deaf and the Blind	PK-12+	98	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 33.67
Indian Hills Elementary School	Pocatello/Chubbock School District #25	K-5	575	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5.22
Inkom Elementary School	Marsh Valley School District #21	P-6	228	\$ 2,000	\$ 8.77
Iona Elementary	Bonneville District #93	K-6	580	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.72
Iowa Elementary School	Nampa School District	K-2	512	\$ -	\$ -
Jefferson Elementary	Jerome Joint School District #261	K-3	594	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 7.58
Jefferson Elementary Library	Boise Independent District #001	K-6	270	\$ 3,163.00	\$ 11.71

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John Brown Elementary School Library	Lakeland Joint School District 272	K-6	350	\$ 2,548.00	\$ 7.28
Kimberly Elementary School	Kimberly School District #414	PK-4	433	\$ 3,769.00	\$ 8.70
Kootenai Elementary	Lake Pend Oreille School District #84	K-6	421	\$ 1,313.52	\$ 3.12
Lake Ridge Elementary	Nampa School District	K-5	583	\$ 100.00	\$ 0.17
Leadore School	South Lemhi 292	K-12	88	\$ 700.00	\$ 7.95
Lena Whitmore Elementary	Moscow School District 281	K-5	252	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7.94
Lewis and Clark Elementary	Caldwell School District #132	PK-5	462	\$ 600.00	\$ 1.30
Lincoln Elementary School	Madison School District #321	K-4	380	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.79
Lincoln Elementary School	Twin Falls School District #411	K-5	464	\$ 2,675.00	\$ 5.77
Linden Park	Idaho Falls school district #91	K-6	393	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2.54
Lindy Ross Elementary	Clark County School District #161	PKto4-5	59	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 33.90
Longfellow Elementary School	Idaho Falls School District 91	K-6	560	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.89
Malad Elementary School	Oneida County #351	K-5	406	\$ -	\$ -
Mary McPherson Elementary	West Ada School District	K-5	550	\$ 500.00	\$ 0.91
Maxine Johnson Elementary	Parma School District #137	K-4	387	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3.88
Middleton Heights Elementary School	Middleton School District #134	K-5	550	\$ -	\$ -
Midvale Elementary School	Midvale School District #433	PK-12	120	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 10.00
Midway Elementary	Jefferson school district 251	K-5	341	\$ 450.00	\$ 1.32
Mill Creek Elementary	Middleton School District #134	K-5	717	\$ -	\$ -
Moreland Elementary	Snake River School District	PK-1	265		\$ -
Morley Nelson Elementary School	BOISE INDEPENDENT DISTRICT #001	K-6	557	\$ 5,113.00	\$ 9.18
Mountain View Elementary	Bonneville School District 93	K-6	585	\$ -	\$ -
Mountain View Elementary School	Marsh Valley School District #21	PK-6	265	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 7.55
Murtaugh	Murtaugh #418	K-5	190	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 10.53
Naples Elementary School	Boundary Country School District #101	K-5	108	\$ 500.00	\$ 4.63
North Gem Elementary School	North Gem School District #149	PK-5	73	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 13.70

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Northside Elementary School	Lake Pend Oreille School District #84	K-6	171	\$ 647.92	\$ 3.79
Northwest Expedition Academy	Coeur d'Alene SD 271	K-5	305	\$ -	\$ -
Notus Elementary	Notus School District #135	PK-6	200	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 5.00
Oregon Trail Elementary	Twin Falls School District #411	K-5	588	\$ 800.00	\$ 1.36
Paris Elementary School	Bear Lake School District #33	PK-5	176	\$ 633.00	\$ 3.60
Payette Primary School	Payette Joint District 371	PK-3	428	\$ -	\$ -
Peregrine Elementary	West Ada School Dist.	K-5	540	\$ -	\$ -
Pioneer Elementary School	Preston Joint School District #201	PK-2	501	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2.99
Ponderosa Elementary	Post Falls School District #273	K-5	509	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.59
Popplewell Elementary	Buhl School District #412	PreK-5	524	\$ -	\$ -
Potlatch Elementary School	Potlatch School District #285	K-6	250	\$ -	\$ -
Prairie Elementary	Cottonwood School District	K-6	198	\$ 400.00	\$ 2.02
Prairie View Elementary	Post Falls School District #273	1-5	450	\$ 250.00	\$ 0.56
Priest Lake Elementary	West Bonner School District #83	PK-6	54	\$ 700.00	\$ 12.96
Richfield School	Richfield School District #316	K-12	213	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 7.04
Riggins Elementary	JSD #243	PK-5	53	\$ 250.00	\$ 4.72
Riverside Elementary	Snake River School District #52	2and3	263	\$ -	\$ -
Roberts Elementary	Jefferson Joint School District #251	K-5	145	\$ 500.00	\$ 3.45
Rock Creek Elementary	Twin Falls School District	K-5	676	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.48
Ronald Reagan Elem.	Nampa School District	6	435	\$ 0.00	\$ -
Ross Elementary School	Kuna School District	4and5	257	\$ -	\$ -
Rupert Elementary	Minidoka County Schools	K-5	630	\$ 0.00	\$ -
Sacajawea Elementary	Caldwell School District #132	PK-5	518	\$ 600.00	\$ 1.16
Sage International School of Boise	Sage International School of Boise #475	K-12	920	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7.61
Sawtooth Elementary	Twin Falls School District #411	K-5	519	\$ -	\$ -
Shadow Butte Elementary	Emmett Independent School District	K-5	505	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1.98
Shoshone Elementary	Shoshone Joint School District	K-12	469	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.64
Siena Elementary	West Ada School District	K-5	660	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2.27
Silver Hills Elementary	Wallace School District #393	K-6	278	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 5.40
Silver Sage Elementary	West Ada School District	K-5	380	\$ 0.00	\$ -
Skyway Elementary School	Coeur d'Alene School District #271	K-5	650	\$ 200.00	\$ 0.31

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Snake River Elementary	Nampa School District #131	K-5	374	\$ -	\$ -
Sorensen Magnet School Library	Coeur d'Alene #271	K-5	314	\$ 300.00	\$ 0.96
Southside Elementary School	Lake Pend Oreille School District	K-6	130	\$ 750.00	\$ 5.77
Spirit Lake Elementary	Lakeland School Dist. 272	K-6	348	\$ 2,205.00	\$ 6.34
Stone Elementary School	Oneida School District #351	PK-2	19	\$ 250.00	\$ 13.16
Stricker Elementary School	Kimberly School District	K-5	591	\$ 3,769.00	\$ 6.38
Summit Hills Elementary	Bonneville Joint School District #93	K-6	541	\$ -	\$ -
Swan Valley Elementary School	Swan Valley School District #92	PK-8	60	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 58.33
Syringa Mountain School	Syringa Mountain School District 488	K-7	110	\$	\$ -
Temple View Elem.	Idaho Falls School District 91	PK-6	373	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2.68
Tendoy Elementary	Pocatello/Chubbuck District #25	K-5	276	\$ 1,579.00	\$ 5.72
Teton Elementary	Fremont County School District	K-5	123	\$ 500.00	\$ 4.07
Theresa Bunker Elementary School	Idaho Falls District #91	K-6	294	\$ -	\$ -
Tiebreaker Elementary	Bonneville School District #93	K-6	480	\$ -	\$ -
Treaty Rock Elementary	Post Falls School District #273	K-5	357	\$ -	\$ -
Tyhee Elementary	Pocatello School District #25	K-5	600	\$ 3,717.00	\$ 6.20
UpRiver Elementary	St. Maries School District 41	K-6	64	\$ 400.00	\$ 6.25
Van Buren Elementary School	Caldwell School District #132	K-5	619	\$ 1,033.00	\$ 1.67
Washington Elementary	Pocatello/Chubbuck School District @25	K-5	220	\$ 1,269.00	\$ 5.77
Washington Elementary School	Caldwell School District #132	K-5	520	\$ 833.00	\$ 1.60
West Canyon Elem.	Vallivue #139	K-5	467	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2.14
West Elementary	Mountain Home School District #193	PK-4	496	\$ -	\$ -
White Pine Elementary	Boise School District	PK-6	530	\$ 4,650.00	\$ 8.77
White Pine Elementary	Cassia School District 151	PK-6	641	\$ -	\$ -
Winton Elementary	Coeur d'Alene School District #271	K-5	516	\$ -	\$ -
Woodland Hills Elem.	Bonneville Joint School District	K-6	560	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3.57