



## Teens & Libraries: Action Items for 2014 National Library Legislative Day

**We need you! Please phone, email, Tweet, fax or visit Congressional Offices May 6 about these key issues & encourage others to do the same.**

- For contact information: [www.capwiz.com/ala/home/](http://www.capwiz.com/ala/home/)
- To send a Tweet: <http://tinyurl.com/NLLDmap>  
<http://tinyurl.com/NLLDreps>

### 1. Innovative Approaches to Literacy:

- By law, at least half of the money from this federal program must be allocated to a competitive grant program for underserved school libraries.
- Over 60 studies show a correlation between well-stocked, professionally staffed school libraries and increased student achievement. For more information about how school libraries are a vital part of ensuring student success visit [www.ala.org/aasl/aaslissues/issuesadvocacy](http://www.ala.org/aasl/aaslissues/issuesadvocacy)

**How to help:** Contact the offices of your Congress members urging them to fund this program at \$25 million for FY14. Give examples of how school librarians in your community have made a positive impact on students. For more information and resources visit: <http://ow.ly/waEkT> (.pdf)

### 2. Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA):

- Every fiscal year, Congress provides funding for LSTA in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. These federal resources help target library services to people of diverse geographic, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds, to individuals with disabilities, and to people with limited literacy skills.
- Visit this web page <http://connect.ala.org/node/138571> for details about how much LSTA funding your state receives and other facts about your state's libraries

**How to help:** Contact the offices of your Congress members urging them to support funding for LSTA in FY14 at \$180.9 million so libraries can provide programs to patrons, such as career training, mentoring & homework help. Give examples of how LSTA funds helped your library meet the needs of your community. For further information and talking points visit <http://ow.ly/waErA> (.pdf)

### 3. ESEA Reauthorization

- The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), formerly known as “No Child Left Behind”, is the legislation for many federal K-12 education programs. When ESEA is finally reauthorized it will dictate K-12 policy at all levels of government for many years to come. Therefore, the inclusion of school librarians into ESEA reauthorization is vitally important.

**How to help:** Contact the offices of your Congress members urging them to support the inclusion of school libraries in ESEA Reauthorization. Give examples of how school librarians help students succeed. For further information and talking points visit <http://ow.ly/waEfH> (.pdf)

**For more about legislation affecting libraries & how you can help, visit [www.ala.org/nlld](http://www.ala.org/nlld)**



## Talking Points: Libraries Provide Critical Services to Teens

### The Challenge

- Approximately 14 million middle and high school students are on their own after school
- 8 in 10 Americans want all children and teens to have some type of organized activity or safe place to go after school
- The hours between 3 and 6 p.m. are the peak hours for juvenile crime and experimentation with drugs, alcohol and cigarettes

(source: Afterschool Alliance's "Afterschool Essentials: Research & Polling")

### The Solution

Leverage the nation's network of libraries to help teens succeed in school and prepare for careers. There are more public libraries in the U.S. than McDonald's restaurants. Libraries have a strong track record of providing a variety of key services that meet the needs of teens, including:

#### Workforce Development

Preparing teens for the workforce is a major concern in the U.S. In the last three decades, the skills required for young adults to succeed in the workforce have changed drastically, but the skills emphasized in schools have not kept up with these changes. 87% of public libraries offer services and programs for teens, including career planning and computer skills. Additionally, libraries recruit teens to work as interns and staff, helping them build practical job skills.

#### Digital Literacy

In 2010, 50% of the nation's 14 - 18 year olds reported visiting a library to use a computer. Data suggests that while teens are comfortable with new technologies, they are not always as technically savvy as adults believe them to be. Librarians provide formal and point-of-need training to teens to help them use the Internet safely, effectively and ethically.

#### Traditional Literacy

97% of public libraries provide a dedicated section of their library to teen books and other teen materials. Librarians are trained experts who can match the right book to the right teen, whether he or she is a struggling reader, an English language learner, or developmentally disabled.

#### Year-Round Learning

A 2010 study from Dominican University demonstrated that students who participated in a public library summer reading program scored higher on reading achievement tests at the beginning of the next school year than those students who did not participate. During the school year 66% of public libraries make visits to area schools and 37% share collections or online resources with schools. This type of collaboration helps teens continue learning and building critical skills beyond the typical school day.

(source 2012 Public Library Association PLDS Statistical Report)

For additional advocacy information and free resources visit [www.ala.org/yalsa/advocacy](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/advocacy)