Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries
Sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) a division of the American Library Association (ALA) and Jay Toor.

Overview
Jay Toor honors his wife, Ruth Toor, with the establishment of The Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries. Ruth Toor was the school librarian at Southern Boulevard School in Chatham for 29 years. After retiring in 2001, she wrote and edited the “School Librarian’s Workshop,” and along with “New on the Job,” Toor co-authored 11 other professional publications. Toor was the 1992-1993 AASL President and consulted and worked actively on many ALA, AASL and ALSC committees including the ALA Committee on Legislation. She taught graduate courses as an adjunct at Rutgers and Montclair State Universities, and was the internship adviser for professional development studies at Rutgers’ school of communication and information.

The grant provides funding support on a competitive basis to public school libraries—located in the United States and led by a certified school librarian—for the creation and implementation of a local public awareness/marketing campaign that promotes and positions their school library as a necessary resource in the community, tying in the theme “Strong School Libraries.”

Eligibility
1. All applicants (individual or institution) must be current members of ALA and AASL at the time the application is submitted.
2. The public school library must be located in the United States, with one staff position being held by a certified school librarian.
3. Grant is for one (1) year and is not intended for the project to extend for multiple years.
4. Grant applications are kept in a pool for two years from date of receipt. Prior applications may be updated each year, as long as they are received by the application deadline.
5. Institutions represented by The Ruth Toor Grant for Strong Public School Libraries jury can be eligible to apply, but committee members must recuse themselves from the discussion, voting or decline the nomination if they have a conflict of interest.

Criteria & Rating
The criteria includes a two-page narrative which outlines the goals of the project, how the public school library will use the funds to further public awareness, and how the grant money will be spent. The following documentation is required with the two-page narrative:

1. A project plan that includes a timeline (50 points)
2. The number of school library-users the grant will reach (15 points)
3. A list of key staff involved in the grant plus a short biography of each (15 points)
4. An itemized budget (15 points)
5. Mechanics/Grammar (5 points)

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100