

# Inspire Collection Development Grant

Sponsored by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) a division of the American Library Association (ALA) and Marina "Marney" Welmers

## Overview

Through the generous donation of Marina "Marney" Welmers, an AASL member and retired middle school librarian, AASL is pleased to offer the Inspire Collection Development Grant, a grant so that an existing public middle or high school can extend, update, and diversify the book, online, subscription and/or software collections in their library in order to realize sustainable improvement in student achievement at their school. The program is to satisfy the need to establish or supplement traditional print or online resources in the school library setting in order to realize sustainable improvement in student achievement at their school.

The Fund is \$20,000 per year. The direct assistance grant shall be capped at \$5,000. At least four grants per year will be awarded with the total number of grants determined by number of applicants, geographic distribution, and total unmet need as determined by the Jury. Of the total, at least two (2) grants up to \$5,000 per year will be awarded to a public middle or high school that has 85% or more of its student population qualified for Free/Reduced Lunch (FRL) program.

## Eligibility

1. The applicant must be a publicly funded middle or high school, grades 5-12, and have an existing campus library. Each library, regardless of the variety of constituents it may serve, is limited to submission of one application.
2. The grant is awarded to individual schools, not to districts; all schools in a given district are welcome to apply if they meet the criteria, but each school must submit an application that is specific to their needs.
3. Private, parochial, independent, and home schools are not eligible. Charter schools can apply if they are publicly funded.
4. The public middle or high school library must be located in the United States, with one staff position being held by a certified school librarian.
5. If the school does not have a certified school librarian on campus staff, the applicant can still apply if there is a certified school librarian available at the district or regional level who will work with the school on the selection of materials to be purchased. Regional level may include service centers or equivalent, university faculty, or staff of neighboring school districts. It is expected that a certified school librarian at the campus, district, or regional level be involved in the selection or materials to be purchased.
6. The school principal must agree to submission of the Inspire Collection Development Grant.
7. The school and/or the certified school librarian do not have to be a member of ALA, AASL, or any other ALA division to apply; however, the jury may take membership into consideration when determining grant awards.

8. Schools that have 85% or more of its student population qualified for Free Reduced Lunch (FRL) program should include this information in their application to receive additional consideration by the Jury.
9. The Jury may take the school's geographic location into consideration when determining grant awards.
10. Funds can be used to purchase:
  - Books, whether they are hardbound print or a Braille volume
  - Audiobook on audiotape or CD-ROM, or an e-book to be added to either the circulating or reference section of the school library collection
  - Magazine/serial copies or subscriptions
  - DVD or videotape movie versions of books or plays
  - Accessibility extensions (hotspots, increased bandwidth, etc.)
11. The following cannot not be funded by the grant: separate processing, for any processing service, or for salaries or stipends for individuals processing books in the school system, furniture, shelving, classroom sets of books, collections of books stored in closets, or collections of books on rolling carts of any kind, student/teacher guides to the book (in print or other media), a test/quiz/workbook, exercise book or commentary on the book, any software related to the book, or electronic book reader.
12. Institutions represented by Inspire Collection Development Grant Jury can be eligible to apply, but committee members must recuse themselves from the discussion and voting or decline if they have a conflict of interest.
13. The school library must be a first-time recipient of the Inspire Collection Development Grant. All previous recipients are ineligible to apply.
14. The school principal must agree to submission of the Inspire Collection Development Grant. The grant does not require that the district, the county, the state, or any other agency approve the application. AASL encourages the school to check with the district office regarding any pertinent grant application policies or regulations it may have.
15. Within one year of receiving a grant, recipients are required to submit a report describing how this grant impacted the school library program. The report should include receipts on how the funds were allocated. If photographs or images are part of the project, the report must include digital copies of all release-signed photographs. (These reports could be posted, with permission of the recipient, on the AASL website, and on any other ALA website/webpage or ALA publication as requested by ALA.)
16. Grant recipients must spend grant funds within the school year following the year in which the grant was given.

## Criteria

The Inspire Collection Development Fund Jury will evaluate the applicant based on the following criteria:

1. The quality of the benefits this grant will bring to the community.
2. A project plan that includes a timeline, budget, and clarity of purpose.
3. Rankings based on a rubric that correlates with the ratings sheet.

## Rating

1. School library profile **(10 points)**
2. Coverage of needs assessment **(20 points)**
3. Project description **(40 points)**
4. Budget **(10 points)**
5. Timeline **(10 points)**
6. Ease of reading and citations **(10 points)**

TOTAL POSSIBLE POINTS: 100