

Preserve Public Library Funding in the Senate Version of the State Budget

- Ohio's public libraries have the highest use per capita in the nation with more than 8.4 million cardholders.
- Education is at the heart of public libraries – whether it is early childhood literacy like Ready to Read, the Governor's Imagination Library and Ready for Kindergarten programs or wrap-around services like Homework Help Centers, Food Service Programs and GED programs – Ohio's public libraries are here to serve before, during and after K-12.
- Public library usage and services are growing and broadening – especially during the pandemic. The need and demand for our services and the expectations of Ohioans related to technology, broadband access, and workforce development is drastically increasing.
- In 2020, public libraries saw a 33% increase in digital book circulation (eBooks and audiobooks) over 2019. With this shift comes an increased cost associated with materials highlighted in the diagram below.
- Public libraries have responded to the pandemic by:
 - Distributing Abbot COVID-19 At-Home Test Kits.
 - Sharing reliable and trusted information with our communities on the vaccine.
 - Assisting patrons with scheduling vaccine appointments by phone and providing access to computers and the Internet so that hard to reach and underserved populations can make appointments for vaccines.
 - Working with our schools to address the pandemic educational gaps we are seeing in Pre-K and Kindergarten as well as in minority populations and economically disadvantaged communities.
 - Assisting in workforce development efforts to help displaced workers take online courses and apply for employment.
- In 2008, the General Assembly established the Public Library Fund (PLF) at 2.22% of the state's General Revenue Fund (GRF). Since that time, the percentage has been reduced. The PLF is currently set at 1.7% and will be automatically cut to 1.66% on July 1.
- The PLF has NOT been set at 1.66% since FY15. As Ohio recovers from the pandemic, now is NOT the time to be reducing the percentage.
- 20% of Ohio's public library systems rely solely on the PLF for their primary source of funding and DO NOT have a local property tax levy (50 of the 251).
- The PLF makes up an extremely small portion of the overall budget. In FY20, \$393.1 million was distributed to public libraries. In FY20, the state spent a total of \$74.55 billion across all funds and less than 1% (only .53%) of that went to the PLF.
- 48% of the total funding for Ohio's public libraries comes from the state through the PLF.

Public Library Fund

LSC Estimates Included in Final State Budget Documents

FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
\$359.3 Million	\$369.0 Million	\$389.5 Million	\$404.3 Million	\$386.3 Million	\$398.1 Million	\$422.3 Million

Actual Distributions


FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
\$341.0 Million	\$360.5 Million	\$377.6 Million	\$378.5 Million	\$384.6 Million	\$402.8 Million	\$393.1 Million
-\$18 M	-\$8.5 M	-\$11.9 M	-\$25.8 M	-\$1.7 M	+\$4.7 M	-\$29.2 M

Public Library Fund (PLF) Distributions in Millions

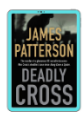
Fiscal Year	PLF Percentage of GRF Taxes	PLF Distributions
2008	2.22%	\$418.2
2009	2.22%	\$414.2
2010	1.97%	\$340.6
2011	1.97%	\$367.6
2012	Freeze with 95% of Previous Year	\$352.2
2013	Freeze with 95% of Previous Year	\$344.3
2014	1.66%	\$341.0
2015	1.66%	\$360.5
2016	1.7%	\$377.6
2017	1.7%	\$378.5
2018	1.68%	\$384.6
2019	1.68%	\$402.8
2020	1.7%	\$393.1

Library Pricing


Ohio's public libraries pay up to **5 times more** for eBooks. This greatly impacts library budgets and the number of items that can be purchased.



Print Edition
\$12.73



eBook on Amazon
\$14.99



eBook for Libraries
\$65
eBook expires after 24 months.

