

## 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

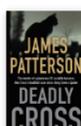
FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
\$341.0 Million	\$360.5 Million	\$377.6 Million	\$378.5 Million	\$384.6 Million	\$402.8 Million	\$393.1 Million
<b>-\$18 M</b>	<b>-\$8.5 M</b>	<b>-\$11.9 M</b>	<b>-\$25.8 M</b>	<b>-\$1.7 M</b>	<b>+\$4.7 M</b>	<b>-\$29.2 M</b>

## Public Library Fund (PLF) Distributions in Millions

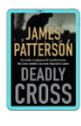
Fiscal Year	PLF Percentage of GRF Taxes	PLF Distributions
2008	2.22%	\$418.2
2009	2.22%	\$414.2
2010	1.97%	\$340.6
2011	1.97%	\$367.6
2012	Freeze with 95% of Previous Year	\$352.2
2013	Freeze with 95% of Previous Year	\$344.3
2014	1.66%	\$341.0
2015	1.66%	\$360.5
2016	1.7%	\$377.6
2017	1.7%	\$378.5
2018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