WHAT IS A SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEM?

New York State's 41 School Library Systems are state funded consortia designed to support the school library media programs of member public school districts and nonpublic schools.

School Library Systems provide specific services and programs that support the learning process of students, teachers and staff. School library systems promote increased student achievement through the use of quality information resources.

ACCESS, CONTENT, TRAINING

- Promote information literacy for students and support the New York State Learning Standards.
- Use the latest technology to make print and electronic resources accessible to students and the education community through connections to all libraries in New York State.
- Establish special collections of materials through Cooperative Collection Development projects and provide electronic resources through cooperative purchases.
- Provide for professional development and specialized training opportunities for the educational community, clerical and administrative staff and school library media specialists.

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS:

Connect Pre-K – 12 students and staff to a world of information:

- Provide access to information and library resources locally, regionally, statewide and nationally.
- Provide access to the latest advances in library and education technology.

Conduct professional development and awareness activities:

- Provide training on the latest advancements in technologies for school library media specialists, teachers, clerical and administrative staff. Serve 3 million students statewide.
- Support the pre-K-12 curriculum and the New York State Learning Standards

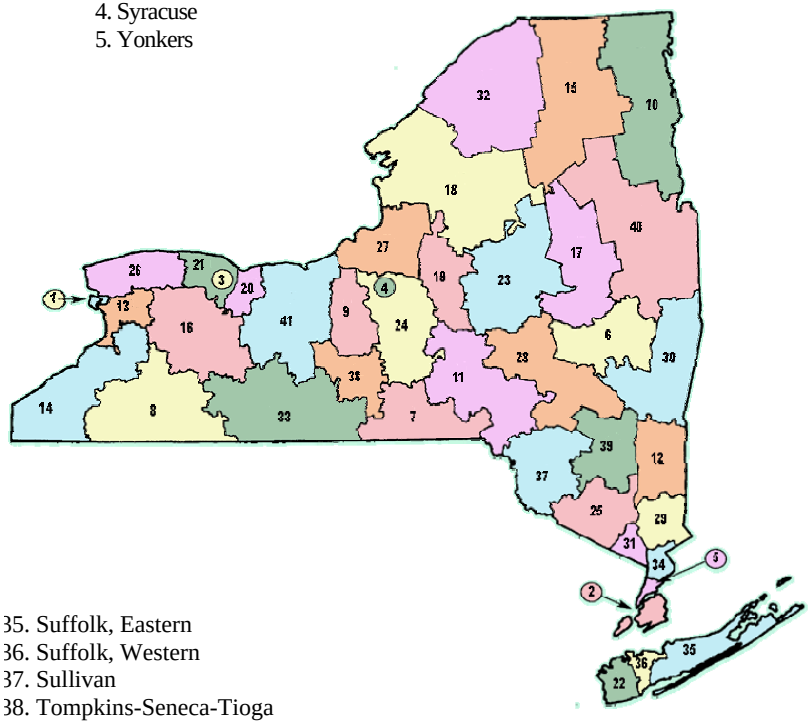
NEW YORK STATE'S SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES (BOCES)

6. Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady-Saratoga (Capital Region)
7. Broome-Tioga
8. Cattaraugus-Allegany-Erie-Wyoming
9. Cayuga-Onondaga
10. Clinton-Essex-Warren-Washington
11. Delaware-Chenango-Madison-Otsego
12. Dutchess
13. Erie #1
14. Erie #2 Chautauqua-Cattaraugus
15. Franklin- Essex-Hamilton
16. Genesee-Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming (Genesee Valley)
17. Hamilton-Fulton-Montgomery
18. Jefferson-Lewis
19. Madison-Oneida
20. Monroe #1
21. Monroe #2-Orleans
22. Nassau
23. Oneida/Herkimer/Madison
24. Onondaga-Cortland-Madison
25. Orange-Ulster
26. Orleans-Niagara
27. Oswego
28. Otsego-Northern Catskills (Otsego-Delaware-Schoharie-Greene)
29. Putnam-Northern Westchester
30. Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene (Questar III)
31. Rockland
32. St. Lawrence-Lewis
33. Schuyler-Steuben-Chemung-Tioga-Allegany (Greater Southern Tier)
34. Westchester #2

BIG 5 CITIES

1. Buffalo
2. New York City
3. Rochester
4. Syracuse
5. Yonkers



35. Suffolk, Eastern
36. Suffolk, Western
37. Sullivan
38. Tompkins-Seneca-Tioga
39. Ulster
40. Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex
41. Wayne-Finger Lakes (Ontario-Seneca-Wayne-Cayuga-Yates)

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS SERVE Students, school library media specialists, faculty and administrators in public and nonpublic member schools.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1984, the State Legislature authorized the establishment of school library systems in Education Law #282-284.Governance and function are established in regulations of the Commissioner of Education (CR 90.18). School Library Systems are based within the State's Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and the Big 5 City school districts.

The 41 school library systems are supported primarily by State Aid. Systems qualify for aid based on an approved five-year Plan of Service, annual budget and annual report. In addition to a base grant, State Aid is allocated by a formula that includes the number of member school districts, the number of pupils in the service area and the square mileage of the system service area.

EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAMS IMPROVE STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT:

- Strong school library media programs, which are supported and enhanced by the School Library System network, provide for higher learning standards and increased student achievement.
- School Library Systems help school library media centers become more effective by participating in and promoting statewide initiatives such as the New York Online Virtual Electronic Library (NOVELNY). While the average school library currently has 25 periodical subscriptions, NOVELNY brings the full text of thousands of magazines, newspapers and other digitized research materials to students, teachers and administrators.
- School library staff impact positively on student performance and test scores. The New York State Regents Commission on Library Services survey conducted in 2000 confirmed the School Library Impact Studies. Studies showed that reading and math test scores improve by 10 to 15 percent in schools with strong library programs and qualified school library media specialists.

FACTS ABOUT SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS:

- Serve 2.8 million pupils, teachers and administrators statewide.
- Serve 4,653 school library media centers in public school districts and nonpublic schools statewide.
- Facilitate interlibrary loan requests and resource sharing.
- Provide access to NOVELNY and other electronic information databases that include the full text of magazines, newspapers, books, etc.
- Provide professional development opportunities for school library media specialists, staff and other educators and administrators.
- Provide electronic catalogs of regional and local resources.
- Connect with the New York State Library as well as public, academic and special libraries for access to specialized resources.

For more information on School Library Systems and school libraries:

Visit the New York State Library web site at:
www.nysl.nysed.gov

Visit the School Library Systems Association of New York State, Inc. web site at:
www.slsa-nys.org

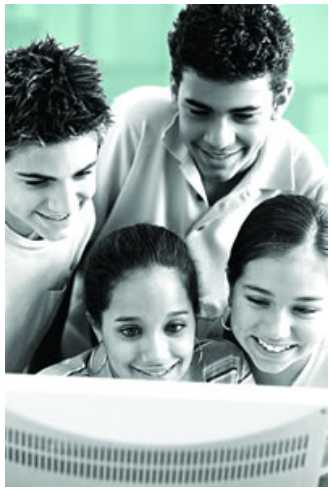
Call the Division of Library Development at the New York State Library: **(518) 474-7890**

NOVELNY
New York Online Virtual Electronic Library

Visit the New York State Library's NOVELNY web site at:
www.novelnewyork.org

NEW YORK STATE'S SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

Ensuring that all New York's students are information literate.



NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY

The University of the State of New York
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
New York State Library · Division of Library Development
Albany, NY 12230 · www.nysl.nysed.gov
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