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Good morning. My name is Dr. Colleen Sadowski and I am the Director of the Rochester City School Library System. I am also the Chairperson of the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries. Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

The great state of New York has three types of library systems - School Library Systems, Public Library Systems as well as Reference and Research Library Resource Systems (also known as 3R's). A cursory glance may lead one to think that we are all vastly different from the other. While that may be true in some aspects, we are similar in many ways. We all have community patrons that we provide services to from birth thru adulthood. It seems obvious that children benefit from both public and school libraries right? But how about a library that falls under the auspice of a Reference and Research library? One typically thinks of universities and hospitals as reference and research. An example of a facility falling under this category would also be the libraries at the Rochester Museum and Science Center or The Strong, both centers of education and learning for children as well as adults. All three system types ultimately serve the same patrons and are interconnected in many ways.

We are fortunate that we share similar client bases and have similar needs. The main needs that we all share involve professional development and resources. With budgets smaller than they were 9 years ago, libraries and systems have become resourceful, striving to continue to provide their patrons with high quality services.

In the Rochester region we pool our resources to share costs, enabling us to provide professional development to our librarians and library staff. An example of this collaborative approach is a regional Tech Camp that we host every summer. Tech Camp is one or two days of workshops, leading to CTLE (Continuing Teacher and Leader Education) credit. The new CTLE credit requirements have increased the financial burden on professional development providers and attendees. For a single system or school district to put on their own Tech Camp event it would cost them approximately \$10,000. By collaborating with the Rochester Regional Library Council and School Library Systems in the Rochester Region, we were able to offer this event at no cost to 125 participants. The event is open to all system types. If each system had additional funding to allocate for professional development we could increase attendance. Additional funding could also be used for other professional development opportunities, providing workshops to staff and cost effective avenues for maintaining their certification. Professional development costs should not be a burden to anyone.

5 Systems is the Rochester region's School Library System approach to resource sharing. The 5 Systems are comprised of – Genesee Valley, Monroe 1, Monroe 2, Rochester City and

Wayne-Finger Lakes. The five of us work together to share our resources easily with one another. We have a unified database of our individual library collections, which can be browsed by librarians. Librarians then place requests to borrow materials from other districts in our region. To further encourage resource sharing, we have partnered with the Rochester Public Library System to serve as a hub for our individual couriers to drop off and pick up interlibrary loans. This saves each system on postage and collection development costs. The value of our interlibrary loan system is estimated to save us almost half a million dollars each year in collection development alone.

In addition to interlibrary loan of books, systems will often share resources such as equipment. In the past School Library Systems have shared equipment such as 3D printers, LittleBits, Legos, and Dash & Dot. These items are used in STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) learning and Makerspaces. The ability to borrow these types of materials help other libraries and systems gauge patron interest before making an investment. The demand is so high for these materials that it isn't feasible to loan them to other systems on a regular basis. An increase in funding would give systems the ability to add all of these items and more to their circulation and patron programs. Patron access to these types of hands on activities build learning through experimentation and creativity.

School Library System's strive to keep up with new technology and digital resources. Many of these are priced right out of our budgets. In the Rochester region we work together with publishers and vendors for regional pricing. The more of us that buy in, the bigger the discount we receive. There have been several times in the past that I have not been able to participate in purchases due to a lack of funding. These were materials we truly needed in the Rochester City School District and I was not able to provide them for my students. Students in one of the poorest cities in the country, with the lowest graduation rate in the state. Due to a lack of funding, I could not provide a set of eBooks to supplement, enhance and engage students in learning. With increased library funding, our library collections would rival the suburbs instead of having average collection ages in the 1980's.

I would like to thank you for your time today. I truly appreciate the opportunity to talk about our accomplishments as a region as well as our struggles. I am passionate about the population I serve. With increased funding, we may still be a poor city, but we would be rich in resources with vibrant learners, eager to soak it all in. Thank you.