

Recommendation on the Distribution of Remaining Discretionary
Public Library Subsidy Funds
as of January 8, 2007

Act 97 of 2006 required that all libraries receive state aid in 2006-2007 in an amount equal to what was paid in 2002-2003 with consideration of changes in the status and number of libraries since 2002-2003. After the 2006-2007 Public Library Subsidy was distributed in accordance with Act 97, a balance of \$6,245.94 remained. Act 97 states, "Any remaining unallocated funds may be distributed at the discretion of the State Librarian."

Several options were considered:

1. Allocate the balance to the State Library as this library by statute serves all Pennsylvanians.
2. Augment the appropriation and distribute the balance evenly among all libraries in the program as of 2006-2007.
3. Distribute the balance in the Equal Distribution Grant category of the formula.
4. Distribute the balance evenly among the four libraries that entered the state aid program this year.
 - a. Horsham Public Library, Montgomery County
 - b. North Wales Memorial Free Library, Montgomery County
 - c. Sewickley Township Public Library, Westmoreland County
 - d. Spring Township Library, Berks County

Rationale: Allocating funds to the State Library of Pennsylvania (Option 1) was viewed as outside the intent of Act 97. Distributing funds under the formula (Option 2) was also viewed as inconsistent with the intent of Act 97 as it would increase the amount per library above the 2002-2003 level. This Option was also dismissed because if the funds were distributed under the formula the amount per library would be insignificant. To distribute under Option 3 as Equal Distribution Grants, each library would receive only about \$10 per outlet—too small an amount to have an impact on a collection. The administrative cost at the state and local level of processing funds under Options 1 or 2 would exceed the amount paid.

The recommendation is Option 4. The benefit of this proposal is that an additional \$1,561.48 is a significant enough amount that it can be of help to each of the the four libraries as they expand their collections or programs. Because none of the four libraries received state aid subsidy funds in 2002-2003, this option is not inconsistent with the intent of Act 97.