

Office of Commonwealth Libraries

2015-16 LSTA Library Programs Provided by Commonwealth Libraries: Indirect Support Information

In addition to LSTA grants that are made directly to libraries, the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Office of Commonwealth Libraries provides libraries across Pennsylvania with a variety of services that are funded through LSTA dollars. The information below provides background information on the services that Commonwealth Libraries provides that indirectly support local library services.

For more information on LSTA grants made directly to libraries, see the information listed separately on the document “Library Services and Technology Act Grants to Pennsylvania Libraries: 2015-16, By Congressional District.”

Indirect Services Provided by Commonwealth Libraries – Program Category	Programs Supported with LSTA Funds
Broadband and Technology Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data reporting and analysis tools for libraries (LibPas reporting tool for public library annual reports, summer learning statistics, plans for the use of state aid, etc.) • KINBER partnership • POWER Library authentication service • POWER Library: Chat with a Librarian (formerly Ask A Librarian) • POWER Library - CyberSmarts • Spark (Pennsylvania Integrated Library System)
Early Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cruise into Kindergarten: Block Party & Wee Build programs • Cruise into Kindergarten: Play K • Family Place • One Book, Every Young Child • Tech Tubs Pilot Project
School-Age Services and Summer Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer Learning Program • Family Engagement through STEM • Teen Reading Lounge
Training for Educators, Librarians and Boards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training for academic, public and school librarians and library staff • Training for public library board members and friends • PA Forward program literacy training • WebJunction training platform
Online Access to Rare PA Collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitization of rare State Library materials • Online access to rare PA library materials in Digital Public Library of America

Background Information about Commonwealth Libraries LSTA Programs

Broadband and Technology Services

1. **POWER Library** – POWER Library funds are used for:
 - **Authentication service** – Authentication services verify that users have a valid library card or are using POWER resources from a Pennsylvania school or public library.
 - **Chat with a Librarian** – A chat 24/7 reference service for the public.
 - **CyberSmarts** -- Online instruction on safe internet use, including online bullying prevention for young people.
2. **SPARK (Pennsylvania Integrated Library System)** – SPARK, an Evergreen open source software platform, is used by more than 100 public libraries in Pennsylvania to manage their online public catalog as well as their library operations, including cataloging, circulation, acquisitions, and serials.

Early Learning:

3. **Cruise Into Kindergarten: Block Party & Wee Build Programs** -- Aligned with PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood, Block Party and Wee Build programs allow young children to play with a set of universal blocks, people, vehicles, animals, scarves, etc. in order to learn how to manipulate objects, work with others, count and measure and build vocabulary. There are currently 255 libraries participating in the Block Party program. There are currently 142 libraries participating in the Wee Build program.
4. **Cruise Into Kindergarten: Play K** -- Aligned with PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood, the Play K curriculum allows young children to 'play kindergarten' using materials from different "playscapes". Children practice activities using a theme that is aligned with the PA Learning Standards for Early Childhood and kindergarten readiness skills such as using scissors, going over a calendar and taking turns. Currently 210 libraries offer the Play K program.
5. **Family Place Library™ Resources and Training** -- Family Place is a national network of public libraries that provide welcoming, developmentally-appropriate early learning environments for very young children, their parents and caregivers. Family Place Libraries™ partner with social, health and educational services providers to ensure that children enter school ready and able to learn. Pennsylvania has about 109 Family Place Libraries™ across 34 counties -- 29 libraries in 18 counties defined as rural, and 90 libraries in 16 counties defined as urban.
6. **One Book, Every Young Child:** The One Book, Every Young Child Program promotes the value and benefits of reading early and often to preschoolers and their families. Program activities include visits by the author across the state; providing copies of the selected book to every public library in the state; and providing District Library Centers, county library systems and collaborating museums with a trunk of fun book-related activities, games, and manipulatives for young children. All of this is tied together by a customized activity guide that is aligned with Pennsylvania Learning Standards for Early

Childhood. Based on returned surveys from early childhood programs at least 456,000 young children had the book read to them. The author visits reached 5,887 children and adults and approximately 18,450 attended a program at a public library or early childhood outreach site.

7. **Tech Tubs Pilot Project** -- In partnership with the Fred Rogers Center, Tech Tubs are designed to help librarians and early childhood educators understand how to use new technology tools. Designed around a specific theme such as food and nutrition or animals, each kit includes an iPad Air, theme-related puzzles and toys and an idea guide. The pilot project is currently funded in six counties.

School-Age Services and Summer Learning

8. **Summer Learning (Reading) Program** -- LSTA funds were used to purchase program manuals and to provide training for public libraries across Pennsylvania. In 2016, 385,000 children and teens tracked their reading and 760,604 attended programs at the library.
9. **Family Engagement through STEM** -- A partnership with The Franklin Institute, the program provides training in four Leap into Science family workshop science curricula for children ages 6 to 10. The workshops are drop-in style programs where parents and children work together to complete activities and to explore books. Currently 50 libraries participate in the pilot project.
10. **Teen Reading Lounge** -- A partnership with the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Teen Reading Lounge is an informal learning program that helps teens explore the humanities and build skills in five areas (communication, literacy, critical-thinking/creativity, collaboration and leadership/civic engagement) through reading, discussion, and activities. In 2015-2016, 15 libraries were selected to be Teen Reading Lounge sites.

Training for Educators, Librarians and Boards:

11. **Professional Development** —LSTA funds were used to provide academic, public and school librarians and library staff with training. This included PA Forward literacy training and WebJunction's SkillSoft training. In addition, training was also provided to public library board members and friends' groups.

Online Access to Rare PA Collections

12. **Digitization of Rare State Library Materials** -- Digitization includes scanning and converting books, newspapers, photos, maps, genealogy records, etc. into digital records. The digitized item is then cataloged with Metadata so that they are 'findable' on the Internet. The State Library materials are then uploaded to POWER Library and Digital Public Library of America, making them accessible to students and researchers from around the world.
13. **Online access to rare PA library materials** – Rare and unique materials in public and academic libraries, archives and related cultural heritage institutions across the state that have been digitized are cataloged and uploaded to the Digital Public Library of America, making them accessible to students and researchers from around the world.