



## **2017 Budget Priority:**

### **Ensure an annual increase in Library Aid that is proportional to Educational Aid**

Provide desperately needed funding to maintain NYS's critical information infrastructure. Enable libraries to continue delivering needed educational services to every New Yorker.

Libraries are successfully supporting the State's education agenda—and are viewed by the state, the courts and the public as educational institutions—but they have not been funded as such. **Please help libraries benefit from funding increases that are proportional to education funding increases.**

#### **Libraries are a key part of our education system – Libraries ARE education:**

- For pre-school aged children, libraries have continuously provided opportunities for enrichment in an environment dedicated to creativity and free inquiry.
- When schools close at the end of each day, each week and each school year, libraries remain open to children and New York's families. In many communities libraries are the sole source of free tutoring and homework help after school.
- For adult learners, including those that did not attend or could not afford college, libraries provide an avenue for free, lifelong intellectual enrichment.

#### **Libraries and library systems are models of shared services and collaborative planning:**

- According to the State Education Department, for *every dollar* of aid the state invests in libraries, patrons receive *seven dollars*-worth of services.
- The Pioneer Library System provides 42 small and rural libraries with the infrastructure necessary to meet the ever-changing needs of our community members.

#### **Pioneer Library System Supports Bandwidth for Everyone**

- Thanks to recent increases in state aid, PLS is now able to subsidize more than 75% of member libraries' bandwidth costs. As a result, libraries quadrupled bandwidth levels without incurring additional local costs.
- Libraries are the leading digital literacy educators in New York State.

#### **Libraries have a critical need for increased NYS Construction Aid:**

- Each year, Pioneer's member libraries request more than twice the NYS Construction Aid funds available to the System.
- Most Pioneer libraries were built over 100 years ago and many can no longer meet the needs of their communities. Library facilities require additional meeting spaces, must accommodate new technology, and desperately need renovations to make spaces fully accessible.