

State Superintendent Announces Budget Initiatives for Next Biennium

On September 18, State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster presented a budget request for the next biennium that includes the following library-related items:

- Public library system funding at the 13% index level of \$27,260,300 for 2009-10 and \$28,078,100 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$16,783,500.
- BadgerLink funding of \$3,234,000 for 2009-10 and \$3,469,400 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$2,111,000. The requested funding would allow for the addition to BadgerLink of curriculum-supporting information databases.
- Library service contract funding for the Wisconsin Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (WRLBPH), the Milwaukee Public Library, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS), and the Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC) totaling \$1,145,300 for 2009-10 and \$1,180,800 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$1,097,200. The requested funding would fully fund the service contracts.
- Library delivery service funding of \$216,000 for 2009-10 and \$232,000 for 2010-11. This funding would cover an estimated 50% of the statewide backbone delivery costs currently incurred by public library systems.
- NFB-Newsline funding to support newspapers accessible by telephone for blind and physically handicapped people of \$113,000 for 2009-10 and \$117,700 for 2010-11. This compares to 2008-09 funding of \$108,000.
- Maintain current authority to distribute Common School Funds of up to \$40,000,000.

A summary of the DPI biennial budget request is available on the DPI's web site at <http://dpi.wisconsin.gov/pb/index.html>.

The budget request will now be reviewed by the Governor, who will submit a proposed budget to the legislature early in 2009.