



GEORGIA PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

New Direction

For Georgia's Public Libraries

For the past 2 years, the public library directors of Georgia and the Georgia Public Library Service have worked intensively to revise and update the method for distributing state grants to the 58 public library systems. This work has resulted in the proposed **New Direction** for Georgia's Public Libraries.

Additional state funding, in the amount of \$1.35 Million in the FY06 budget is sought for public library services in Georgia.

Talking Points:

- *The method for allocation of state grants has not been revised since 1985.*
- *Budget cuts over the past 4 years and major demographic shifts have made the old system inequitable and harmful to many library systems.*
- **New Direction** *enhances the equity of state funding to meet growing demands for public library services.*
- **New Direction** *provides greater flexibility at the local system level for the expenditure of state grant funds.*
- *With New Direction there is greater recognition of the diversity of the public library systems in Georgia.*
- *This request represents only an additional 15.4 cents per capita for improved library service across the state.*
- *This \$1.35 Million would be only a 4.1% increase in needed state funding for public libraries.*

Georgia Public Library Services In The 21st Century



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When we think of **Public Libraries** we generally think about books and reading programs and getting questions answered. Well, that was then; this is now. Today's **Public Libraries** do many more things.

TOP 10

OTHER

Regular Public Library Services

1. Provide Voter Registration
2. Provide Federal/State Tax Forms and facilities for AARP tax assistance
3. Provide Literacy Training and GED Preparation
4. Provide Assistance to the Home School Community
5. Provide Non-English Computers, Classes and Assistance
6. Support P-16 library needs
7. Provide Genealogy Collections, Research and Assistance
8. Provide Tourism Materials and Assistance along with e-mail services for travelers
9. Provide access for *GACollege411*, *Georgia CARES*, *Georgia One-Stop Workforce Development* and other state online services like the proposed *Georgia Virtual High School*
10. Provide Public Photocopy Machines