

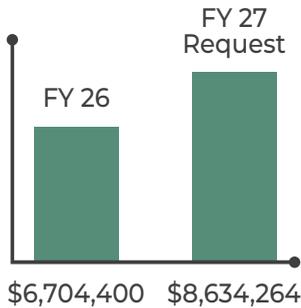
DELAWARE LIBRARIES

INVESTING IN STRONGER COMMUNITIES



FY 27 JFC REQUEST - \$8,634,264

Funding for libraries can be found in the "Library Standards" Line of the budget.



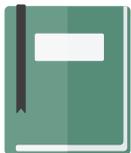
Public Libraries receive 15% of their funding from the state. The Delaware Library Association recommends increasing the budget allocation by **\$1,929,864.**

WHAT DOES FUNDING SUPPORT

- Expands access to books and access to eBooks.
- Sustains day-to-day library operations that communities rely on for services.
- Supports staffing, technology, and maintenance as service expectations continue to grow.
- Keeps pace with rising demand for literacy, workforce development, and digital access programs.
- Strengthens learning outcomes, workforce readiness, and economic mobility for Delawareans of all ages.

COST OF MATERIALS

Digital licensing terms vary by publisher; high-demand titles may only be available through metered access licenses.



Print Book - Purchased

Average Cost - \$18 - \$25
Can be checked out until the book is damaged or destroyed



eBook/Audiobook - Licensed

Average Cost - \$55+ but certain titles can cost as much as \$120
Titles may require repurchase after a limited time or checkouts.

ACCESS TO BOOKS MATTERS

45% of Delaware 4th graders scored below basic reading levels

41% of Delaware 8th graders scored below basic proficiency in reading

20% of Delaware adults are at or below level 1 literacy

Libraries are on the front lines of Delaware's Literacy Emergency, declared by Governor Meyer

Statistics provided by the 2024 results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress and the Delaware Literacy Alliance.

ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM

The Delaware Library Consortium (DLC) is a statewide partnership that brings together public, academic, school, and special libraries to share a unified catalog, digital resources, and coordinated services. The DLC dramatically expands access for all Delaware residents, allowing them to benefit from joint investments in collections, technology, eMedia, and research tools.



SHARED INFRASTRUCTURE = SMARTER SPENDING

- Economy of scale: Shared catalogs reduce costs and expand access.
- The Delaware Library Consortium shares **more than 3.5 million** items statewide.
- Shared digital platforms expand access for students, families, and job seekers.
- By participating in the DLC, libraries significantly expand what any single branch could offer on its own.

Created by the Delaware Library Association - dla.lib.de.us
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