



House Bill 489
Education - State Library Resource Center - Funding
Ways and Means Committee
February 7, 2024
SUPPORT

Dear Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and Committee Members,

The Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) strongly supports **HB 489 Education – State Library Resource Center - Funding**, which would ensure modest, periodic increases to the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) per capita funding formula beyond FY 2024.

The Enoch Pratt Free Library's Central Library was designated the State Library Resource Center (SLRC) in 1971 to provide and expand access to specialized library materials and services necessary for coordinated, efficient, and economical library services in Maryland. Unlike most states, Maryland does not have a State Library, making access to State Library Resource Center services critical to Maryland libraries and residents across the state.

Prince George's County Memorial Library System and Prince Georgians benefit immensely from the State Library Resource Center services. Last year, Prince Georgians received over 26,000 items via the statewide interlibrary loan program, Marina, administered by the State Library Resource Center. Our customers, including all Prince George's County Public School students, have access to various educational databases, including Gale, Heritage Quest, and Mango Languages, provided at no cost to PGCMLS. The cost of these databases has risen dramatically. For example, the Gale databases have increased by 43% between FY21 and FY22, and we anticipate similar increases next fiscal year. Libraries, schools, and local governments throughout the state benefit from the high-speed internet connection service provided at no cost to recipients through the State Library Resource Center.

Thank you for your past support of the State Library Resource Center, and we ask that you **favorably recommend HB 489** for passage.

Sincerely,

Mark Winston, Ph. D.
CEO