



THE LAURA BUSH FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S LIBRARIES



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As a restricted fund of the Bush Center, the George W. Bush Institute is proud to support the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries which provides library grants to our nation's neediest schools to expand, update, and diversify their book and print collections to help students continue to develop a love of reading and learning.

Studies have shown that the quality of a school library has a major impact on reading test scores and academic success of children. All of the elements for a good library are needed to positively affect academic achievement, such as adequate staffing, technology, and the quality of the print collection, including the date and quantity of the books.

BACKGROUND

Since its founding in 2002, the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries has awarded more than \$12.5 million in grants to nearly 2,500 schools in all 50 states, as well as the District of Columbia, and some U.S. territories and military bases. School library funds have helped purchase approximately 715,000 books and other reading materials for school libraries. A separate and special fund was raised for the Gulf Coast School Library Recovery Initiative to help rebuild school library collections affected by the devastation of the 2005 Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Between 2006 and 2012, the Foundation awarded more than \$6.4 million in grants to 124 schools in the Gulf Coast area.

"Our students are very excited about and have been enjoying these new books. With the help of your grant, we are inspiring more students to read! Thank you again for making such an enormous difference in our school library." --Rusheon Middle School Librarian (Bossier City, LA)

"Once a child learns to use a library, the doors to learning are always open. That is why the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries provides funds to some of our nation's neediest school libraries to add to and update their book and media collections." – Mrs. Laura Bush

More information can be found at laurabushfoundation.org.

"THE LOVE OF BOOKS – HOLDING A BOOK, TURNING ITS PAGES, LOOKING AT THE PICTURES, HEARING STORIES READ OUT LOUD – IS KEY TO DEVELOPING A CHILD'S LOVE FOR LEARNING." –Mrs. Laura Bush

ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The grant cycle is open each fall with applications due in December. Grants are awarded in May, with grant funds to be used the following school year.

Advisory Committee

Grant recipients are selected annually by the Laura Bush Foundation Advisory Committee, comprised of experts from across the country in the fields of youth literature, reading, school and public libraries, and education. Committee members also develop grant guidelines and oversee the grants process.

“This is so amazing. I have been so embarrassed to put books on the shelves that I myself would not want to check out, but I have no choice. It is either that, or the shelves are empty. The library program, the students, faculty, administration, and I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the much needed library grant.”

— Baytown Junior High School Librarian (Baytown, TX)



Blackshear Elementary, Austin, TX

“The books purchased with this grant got students excited about reading and visiting the library! Students who saw me throughout the day would talk with me about a book we read during their visit, and stop by at the end of the day to see if any new books were processed and ready for checkout. From the carts of new books, students would ask for items to be put on hold. The excitement and interest in books was rewarding to witness as a librarian!” -- Wonder Park Elementary Librarian (Anchorage, Alaska)

For more information on the Laura Bush Foundation for America's Libraries,
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