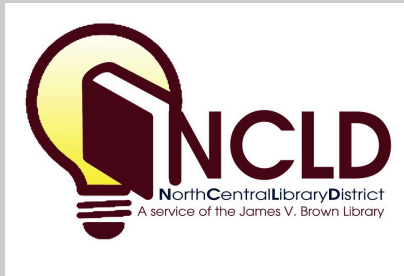


Summer 2026 Edition

The Board Bulletin North Central Library District



Crafted specifically for *you*, this quarterly newsletter delivers information pertinent to your role as a library trustee.

Stay connected to important library news from across our district and the Commonwealth.

The NCLD staff are committed to ensuring you are informed, inspired, and empowered to fulfill your governance duties.

Contact us!

Visit our Website

Check it out! **Past newsletters** are archived on the district website.

A Message on Summer Learning with Nina White, District Youth Consultant

In honor of the summer season, let's dig into our past to uncover some remarkable findings. Did you know that public library summer reading programs actually began in the 1890s as a way to encourage school children, particularly those in urban areas and not needed for farm work, to read during their summer vacation, use the library and develop the habit of reading? Although we are not part of the dinosaur ages, our public libraries are the trusted, original destination for summer learning offering rich opportunities for hands on learning and access to books for over 130 years. That is certainly something to roar about!

Since the first summer reading program, libraries have been bridging the 'summer slide' by providing access to books and literacy programming.

Research has shown:

- If youth are not engaged in learning over the summer, they may fall up to 26% behind in academics when returning to school compounding to being a staggering 2 years behind by middle school.
- Just 8 books being read over the summer can combat the slide.
- The number of minutes read has a clear correlation to vocabulary gains and increased knowledge over the summer. Vocabulary gaps predict reading ability; 3rd grade reading ability predicts graduation.
- Libraries have provided dynamic opportunities for tweens and teens to nurture the 4 C's needed for future career skills including critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and communication.

Summer is an amazing tradition for public libraries as the community hub, viewed as the family destination spot for everyone offering FREE family engagement opportunities. In today's economy, all our libraries are seeing a surge in community need and demand for quality, innovative and fun family engagement all year round. Libraries are not at the risk of becoming extinct. They are alive, brimming with energy. This rumble is heard across our 11 county district.



Stay Informed! State and District Updates

Annual Reports: Where Does the Data Go?

The Office of Commonwealth Libraries has completed the 2025 Public Library Data Survey (Annual Report).



Why This Data Matters

- **Secures State Aid:** This data directly determines your library's eligibility for essential state funding.
- **National Impact:** Your numbers feed into the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) national Public Library Survey.
- **Collection Planning:** The 2025 Annual Report includes the 12% collection expenditure that must be met for your library's 2027 budget.



Explore the Data: IMLS Dashboard

The IMLS interactive dashboard lets you explore the survey data through individual library metrics or aggregate groups. Simply select a library and choose from five specialized pages to analyze key data.

This tool provides powerful insights to help you:

- **Plan Strategically:** Inform your long-range and strategic planning.
- **Compare Peers:** Benchmark your library against similar institutions across the state and country.
- **Evaluate:** Track key indicators for staffing, financial health, and public use.

[View the IMLS Dashboard](#)

[HOME](#)
[SEARCH](#)
[FIND PEERS](#)
[SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON](#)
[PEER BENCHMARKING](#)
[PLS TABLES](#)

Welcome to the **Public Libraries Survey (PLS) Data Dashboards**. These dashboards provide multiple ways to explore the PLS data for individual libraries and aggregate groups. Data are available through the FY 2024 collection.

Know which public library you are looking for?

Step 1: Select a library

Use the library pull down menu to choose the library you want to explore.

FSCS Library Name
PA0251 JAMES V BROWN LIBRARY

Step 2: Lock in your choice

Click "Set Library" to confirm your selection. This updates the dashboard so all pages display information for the library you selected.

Set Library

Step 3: Choose a Dashboard Page

Once the selected library appears below, choose a page to begin exploring key metrics and comparisons.
Current Library: PA0251 JAMES V BROWN LIBRARY

LIBRARY DETAILS

View essential metrics for a selected library across major topic areas. This page includes branch-level information and trends over time, helping users understand a library's operations, resources, and performance.

LIBRARY DETAILS PDF

Access three downloadable PDFs summarizing key metrics for the selected library. These are designed for easy sharing with colleagues, stakeholders, or partners. Each PDF also includes a unique shareable link.

FIND PEERS

Identify libraries similar to your selected library based on six characteristics: administrative structure, revenue, FTE, staff, locale, legal service area population, and legal basis. View how many libraries match on each characteristic and explore the full list of matching peers.

SIDE-BY-SIDE COMPARISON

Compare two libraries directly across shared metrics. This feature helps users quickly evaluate similarities, differences, and performance contrasts between libraries of interest.

PEER BENCHMARKING

See how the selected library compares to other libraries at the national, state, and population-size served levels. Compare performance across major indicators to understand how a library aligns with peers of different scales.



- The **Pennsylvania State Budget** officially **passed on July 12th**, securing vital **level funding** for the Public Library Subsidy line. A huge **thank you** to everyone who reached out to their local legislators! Your advocacy and voice made a direct impact in demonstrating the critical value of state funding for our public libraries.
- Heather Sharpe has been named the [new State Librarian](#) and Deputy Director of Education replacing Susan Banks after her retirement in late May 2026.

Free Webinar from Productive Fundraising

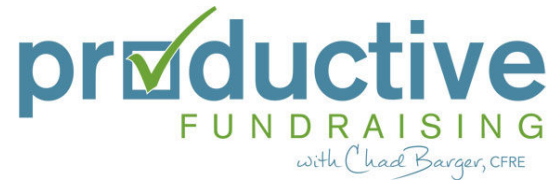
A Simple & Highly Effective End of Calendar Year Fundraising Campaign for Small Nonprofits

Join fundraising master trainer, Chad Barger on **August 24, 2026 at 1:00pm** for a practical session designed specifically for small nonprofits.

Most nonprofits raise nearly 30% of their contributed revenue during the final six weeks of the year — you can't afford to wing it. In this fast-paced workshop, Chad will outline a simple, focused year-end campaign strategy that integrates a compelling donor-centered appeal, authentic digital engagement, and clear board expectations.

Please note: This free webinar series is offered as a service through Productive Fundraising. Any questions about the webinar should be directed to Productive Fundraising.

Register HERE



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