

**Southern Tier Library System
Policy on Services for new Reading Centers**

The following resolution establishes policy for the Library System when it is approached by a municipality or community group wishing reading center services from STLS after November 16, 1999:

R E S O L U T I O N

Whereas, The typical public library in New York State receives about 90% of its financial support from local public funds, i.e. real property taxes paid to a local municipality, and

Whereas, STLS is not able, because of limited resources, to provide reading center services to communities not willing (or unable because of a small tax base) to provide meaningful financial support with local public funds for library service, and.

Whereas, Agreements made with other than municipal bodies would not provide the necessary stability in funding for a proposed reading center,

Now therefore, be it resolved:

Southern Tier Library System will enter into agreements for reading center services only with municipalities or school districts, and,

1. The Reading Center's first and subsequent total annual budgets must be at least \$10,000 in cash from local public funds, and
2. The Reading Center must meet all state laws and regulations for chartering and registering with the State Education Department and obtain steadily increasing tax support to a minimum amount of \$25,000 or greater per capita amount needed to provide sufficient library services, within seven years of the signing of the original agreement with STLS, and,
3. The municipality or school district must apply for a charter and registration certificate to become a public library, or merge with or become a branch of a neighboring library, within eight years of the signing of the original agreement with STLS, and,
4. The municipality must employ staff with compensation and benefits comparable to similarly-situated employees in the local school district or municipality, and
5. The municipality or school district must provide suitable ADA compliant quarters for the reading center.

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Southern Tier Library System
at its meeting on November 16, 1999.