

Strong Libraries Build Strong Students

“An investment
in libraries is an
investment in our
children’s future.”
-Laura Bush

“It makes no sense
to require or
encourage reading
when there is little
access to books.”
-Michelle Obama

“Schools
without
libraries are
at risk of
becoming
irrelevant.”
-Rutgers Univ.

“The most
important
thing a strong
library
program can
have is a
full-time
certified
librarian with
support staff.”
-PA School
Library Proj.

“When
spending for
school
libraries rises,
better reading
scores follow.”
-Mansfield
Univ.



Student Achievement

Hiring and keeping full-time school librarians correlated significantly with higher student reading scores. Laying off librarians had a negative effect on fourth grade reading scores. Lance, et al. (2011.). *Change in school librarian staffing linked with change in CSAP reading performance, 2005 to 2011.*

The presence of a qualified school librarian can make a tremendous difference in reading achievement: from eight percent for high schools to 35 percent for elementary schools. Rodney. (2003). *The impact of Michigan school librarians on academic achievement.*

Instruction

Student test scores were higher the more time librarians worked cooperatively with classroom teachers, taught information literacy independently, and provided in-service training. Lance et al. (2000). *Measuring up to standards.*

School librarians are teachers of students, facilitating the development of information literacy skills necessary for success in all content areas, and they are in-service trainers of teachers, keeping abreast of the latest information resources and technology. Houston. (2008, March). *Getting to proficiency and beyond. LIBRES.*

Learning Environment

“Schools without libraries minimize the opportunities for students to become discriminating users in a diverse information landscape and to develop the intellectual scaffolds for learning deeply through information.” Center for International Scholarship in School Libraries. (2012). *Phase 2 report -- Goal one: Student learning.*

The average school library today is a well-connected facility with significant numbers of computers for students and staff to do research. However, school district leaders need to pay more attention to their elementary school libraries, and larger schools should be spending more per pupil on their libraries. AASL. (2007). *School libraries count!*

Learning Resources

School librarians must ensure that school networks extend the availability of information resources beyond the walls of the library media center throughout the building, and into students' homes. Lance, (2002, Dec.). *Library technology raises test scores, too. School Library Journal.*

Providing more access to books can mitigate the effect of poverty on reading achievement. Krashen, (2004). *The power of reading.*

Library Team

87% of school librarians are in charge of their library’s technology, 60% introduced it into the classroom, and 4% serve on their school’s tech team. Barack. (2012, Nov.). *The league of extraordinary librarians. School Library Journal.*

School librarians have deep expertise in digital literacy skills; have well-developed instructional strategies based on thinking critically, communicating creatively in a variety of media, and solving problems creatively; and are role models for strong leadership. Trilling. (2010, Jan.). *From libraries to learning “Libratories.” School Library Activities Monthly.*