



Effective School Libraries Essential to Student Success



The academic success of students corresponds with the presence of an effective school library led by a certified school librarian. School librarians are teachers who:

- Provide equitable access to diverse resources in their schools
- Increase student achievement with focus on reading achievement by supporting and teaching reading and inquiry learning
- Teach media literacy, research, and digital citizenship skills to prepare students for college and career
- Lead and support technology integration in their schools

[Supporting Evidence Summary](#)

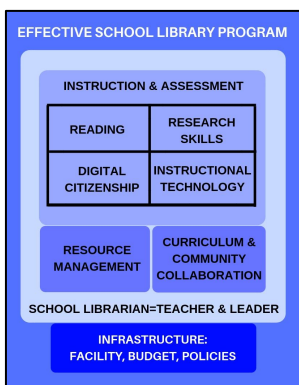
[Research: Poverty & School Libraries](#)

[Infographic: Students Reach Greater Heights](#)

Who are certified school librarians and what do they do?

School librarians, also called Library Media Specialists in Michigan, are teachers who hold a Michigan Teaching certificate with the Library Media (ND) endorsement. They typically have a Masters in Library and Information Science and are uniquely qualified to carry out five roles: teacher, literacy and reading expert, information specialist, program administrator, and leader.

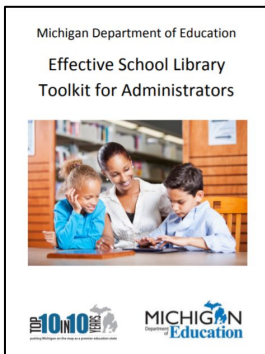
- **Teacher** - Delivers instruction on reading, accessing resources, information/media literacy, digital citizenship, and technology tools.
- **Literacy and Reading Expert** - Has training in youth and YA literature and collection development to select and promote materials in multiple formats to support learning, personal growth, and enjoyment.
- **Information specialist** - Selects, curates, promotes and uses physical, digital, and virtual collections of resources ethically and equitably to support the needs of the diverse learning community.
- **Instructional Technologist**: Leads and supports technology integration.
- **Program administrator** - Plans, develops, implements, and evaluates the school library programs, resources, and services in support of the mission of their schools according to the ethics and principles of library science, education, management, and administration.
- **Leader** - Leads a strong reading culture within their schools and advocates for their students' access to diverse resources and positive learning environments. Provides professional development for teachers. Connects with administrators, teachers, and the community including their community library to provide integrated resources and services to all students and the school community.



Resources to Support Schools Implement Effective School Libraries



The allowable expenses of **federal funds include school libraries/librarians** (any activity authorized by ESEA of 1965) as clarified in this [memorandum](#) from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). . This includes Title I, Title IIA, Title IV which may be spent on personnel, resources, and professional development including training for teachers to become certified in library media.



The [MDE Effective School Library Toolkit for Administrators](#) explains the what, why, and how of school libraries including a sample job description for certified school librarians.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has published [guidelines](#) on staffing school libraries. The Visual Guideline to Staffing Choices in School Libraries [document](#) shows the areas of expertise and training of certified school librarians versus other staff using a green, yellow, and red light system. Note: paraprofessional staff working in a school library should never use the professional titles of school librarian or media specialist as outlined in the MDE guidelines.



The School Quality / Student Success [Indicator](#) includes “Access to K-8 Library Media Specialist.” This [indicator](#) is calculated based on employing a teacher with Library Media (ND) Certification.

The Michigan Department of Education Equity in Literacy guidance [document](#) includes references for the access to school libraries/certified school librarians to support equity in literacy. This International Literacy [Brief](#) outlines the essential literacy leadership role of school librarians.



The MDE/Library of Michigan [School Library 21 \(SL21\): Measurement Benchmarks for Michigan School Libraries for 21st Century Schools](#) provide benchmarks for an effective school library program.

The Library of Michigan [Model School Library Program](#) provides examples of quality school library programs that can be visited by interested administrators and other school personnel.



The [Essential School-wide and Center-wide Practices in Literacy](#) and the [Essential School-Wide Practices in Disciplinary Literacy: Grades 6 to 12](#) documents include access to school libraries and certified school librarians as part of the essential practices (Essential #1, #3, #7, #9). Certified School Librarians also support the classroom Literacy Essentials as shown in this [presentation](#).

Today's School Libraries are [dynamic learning centers](#) that support the goals of administrators to ensure that students are prepared to succeed in college or career.



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