



STRONG LIBRARIES = A STRONGER MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN LIBRARY ADVOCACY DAY



APRIL 25, 2023 AT THE MICHIGAN STATE CAPITOL BUILDING

TALKING POINTS - School Libraries

The Michigan Library Community supports the need for policy and funding to ensure that no child is without access to a certified school librarian and that schools in Michigan be required to have a school library.

We believe that all students in Michigan deserve equitable access to effective school libraries staffed by certified school librarians who:

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

Michigan currently ranks 43rd in the nation in 4th grade reading achievement. In addition, a key finding of the year-one Michigan State University Read by Grade Three Law Study is that there is a disparity across school districts in the availability of library resources. The year-two MSU study found that more than one-half of 3rd-grade students in the 2020-21 school year were identified as having a “reading deficiency” at some point between 1st and 3rd grade.

Michigan ranks 47th in the U.S. in supporting school libraries; yet, studies show that students who attend schools with certified school librarians have higher reading and writing scores, better ACT scores, and better graduation rates.

As we move to improve the literacy achievement of our students and prepare them for college or career, we need to provide them with all of the resources that they need to succeed. Thus, all of Michigan’s students deserve equity of access to school libraries

staffed by certified school librarians who provide access to diverse resources, improve student achievement, teach all forms of literacy, and lead and support technology integration.

Seventeen organizations signed-on to support the equitable access to school libraries staffed by certified school librarians in our state. These organizations include the Michigan Parent Teacher Association (PTA); the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD); the Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association (MEMSPA); the Michigan Council of Teachers of English (MCTE); the Michigan Reading Association (MRA); and others listed here: <https://bit.ly/SLsignon>

The library community and supporters ask that the legislature work toward creating and supporting specific policy and funding for school libraries to ensure that no child is without access to a school library staffed by a certified school librarian.