

THE VALUE OF School Libraries

Recommended Student-to-Staff Ratios

(per ISBE Evidence-Based Funding Formula)

Librarians

- Elementary 450: 1
- Middle 450: 1
- High School 600: 1

Librarian Aides/ Media Techs

- Elementary 300: 1
- Middle 300: 1
- High School 300: 1

School Librarians...

Innovate

55% of school administrators say it is crucial that librarians and teachers design and teach lessons together.²

School librarians are critical for teaching digital literacy skills, online citizenship, and internet safety.⁵

Educate

Librarians play an important role in teaching and supporting 21st-century skills.⁴

Collaborate

Administrators and teachers consistently rated librarians' teaching of Standards for the 21st-Century Learner as good or excellent.¹

In Illinois High Schools, 11th-grade ACT scores were highest where there was a high degree of collaboration between librarians and classroom teachers.³

1. *How Pennsylvania School Libraries Pay Off: Investments in Student Achievement and Academic Standards*, 81-82.

2. Lance, K. B. Swartz, and Rodney, M.J. (2014). How Libraries Transform Schools by Contributing to Student Success: Evidence Linking South Carolina School Libraries and PASS & HSAP Results. *South Carolina Association of School Libraries*.

3. Lance, K., Rodney, M. J. and Hamilton-Pennell, C. (2015). *Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study*. Illinois School Library Media Association.

4. Scholastic, Inc. (2015). *Kids & Family Reading Report, 5th ed.*

5. Trilling, Bernie. (2010). From Libraries to Learning Laboratories: The New ABC's of 21st Century School Libraries. *School Library Monthly*, 29(1), 43.



1. Lance, K. and Hofschire, L. (2011). Something to Shout About: New Research Shows That More Librarians Means Higher Reading Scores. *School Library Journal*, 57(9), 28-33.

2. Lance, K. B. Swartz, and Rodney, M.J. (2014). How Libraries Transform Schools by Contributing to Student Success: Evidence Linking South Carolina School Libraries and PASS & HSAP Results. *South Carolina Association of School Libraries*.

3. Scholastic, Inc. (2015). *Kids & Family Reading Report, 5th Ed.*

4. Whitten, Christy, et al. (2016). The Impact of Pleasure Reading on Academic Success. *The Journal of Multidisciplinary Graduate Research*, 2, 48-64.

Area of Expertise

**Certified
School
Librarian**

**Certified
Teacher**

**Other
Library
Staff**

Education & Credentials

Literacy

Curriculum & Instruction -
Students

Curriculum & Instruction -
Pedagogy

Technology

Collection Development &
Management

Intellectual Freedom &
Privacy/Equity

Professional Library
Community

Community Engagement

Professional Leadership

State Teacher Certification
and LIS Endorsement
(18 credit hours or MLS
+ passing exam score)

State Teacher
Certification

No professional
education training
or certification



* Some non-certified library staff could provide this service.
Adapted from Hand, Dorcas, *A Guideline to Staffing Choices
in School Libraries*, 2017.



Proceed with
confidence in training
and expertise



Proceed with
caution; no training
guaranteed



No professional
education or
library training

**To
Learn
More**

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