

Benefits of a Quality School Library

- ✚ The quality of the library media program and the instructional role of the media specialist are good predictors of student achievement.
- ✚ The library media center connects content standards, resources, and learners.
- ✚ The library media center supports and strengthens the school and district curriculum.
- ✚ The library media center connects students and books for reading or recreation and for information.
- ✚ The library media program continually evolves to meet the ever-changing needs of the learning community.
- ✚ The library media center is the school's information resource center.



For further information and/or assistance with your school library media program(s), please contact:

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"It is increasingly clear that school communities who build strong library media programs reap rewards **ranging from 10–20% on achievement tests.**"

—Keith Curry Lance



South Carolina
Department of Education

Together, we can.

School Library Media Services
Office of Standards and Support

Administrator's Guide to Effective School Library Media Programs



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Gauging the quality and effectiveness of your school library

Dear Administrator,

Research shows that an effective, fully integrated library media program has a positive effect on student achievement. Research also shows that the direct involvement of the library media specialist as an instructional partner with the classroom teacher positively affects student learning.

What are your responsibilities for a quality library media program in your school? How do you determine that your library media program is improving student learning and providing a foundation for effective teaching?

Use this guide as a quick reference tool in evaluating your library media program and working with your library media specialist to create, maintain, and improve the library media program in your school. The *ultimate success* of your library media program depends on (1) your support; (2) the partnership you establish with your library media specialist; and (3) your expectations for collaboration between the classroom teachers and your library media specialist (or teacher-librarian).

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Library Media Center Staff

- ✚ Is the media specialist fully certified? Does he/she have a Master's degree in Library and Information Science?
- ✚ Is there a mission statement for your library media center?
- ✚ Is your media center adequately staffed?
- ✚ Is the media specialist a member of your Academic Leadership Team?
- ✚ Do classroom teachers and media specialist actively plan and teach together?

Library Resource Collection

- ✚ Is the library resource collection up-to-date and aligned with the curriculum?
- ✚ Does the collection meet the Department of Education's standards for library materials? Do you know what these standards say?
- ✚ How often is the collection weeded to remove old and out-dated materials?
- ✚ Are new materials selected from recommended review sources? Is selection made on the basis of identified needs noted through curriculum and collection mapping (resource alignment)?
- ✚ Are all materials properly catalogued and shelved for ease of access by all users?

Facilities

- ✚ Is the media center readily accessible by all members of your school community?
- ✚ Is the atmosphere warm, welcoming, and inviting? Is it conducive to learning?
- ✚ Are the furnishings well-maintained and age-appropriate?
- ✚ Is the media center climate-controlled year-round to avoid damage to materials and equipment?

Curriculum Integration

- ✚ Does the media specialist serve on instructional design teams (e.g., curriculum, technology)?
- ✚ Are 21st Century information literacy skills taught as part of the classroom curriculum rather than in isolation in the media center? Do your teachers and media specialist plan this instruction jointly?
- ✚ Do you expect collaborative planning and teaching by classroom teachers and the media specialist?
- ✚ Does the media center schedule permit and facilitate classroom teacher-media specialist collaborative planning and teaching?
- ✚ Do the classroom teachers actively plan and teach with the library media specialist?

Information Technology

- ✚ Does the media specialist model the use and integration of all information technologies? Does the media specialist model and teach ethical use of information and information technology?
- ✚ Does the media center provide access for all users to current information technology? Does the media specialist provide, in collaboration with teachers, instruction for students in the use of technology?
- ✚ Does the media specialist provide instruction for teachers via staff development offerings illustrating the use of information and technology?
- ✚ Does your media center have the same (or better) technology equipment than your regular classrooms and labs?