



Michigan Library Cooperative Directors Association Statement on School Libraries and Librarians

Early in 2015, the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association (MCDA) issued a statement in support of school librarians and school libraries. MCDA fully endorses the Library of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Education's support for school librarians and library media centers. School library media centers are an integral part of K-12 education for the students in Michigan and provide a thirteen-year foundation in teaching and learning.

Members of the MCDA were among those who represented Michigan at the American Library Association's National Library Legislative meetings with Michigan's U.S. Senators and Representatives in Washington D. C. We strongly advocated for passage of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) with language that included employment of fully certified school librarians/media specialists in every public and private school in the state

MCDA commends the Michigan Department of Education Board and Brian Whiston, State Superintendent, for recognizing the importance of the inclusion of school libraries and librarians in all efforts to provide excellence in the educational experience of every student in Michigan. The Board and Superintendent are also to be commended for involving practicing Michigan school librarians in the planning process for *Top 10 State in 10 Years* and on the ESSA Tactical Review Team.

The Michigan Department of Education has made significant strides to include language related to school libraries and librarians in the *Top 10 State in 10 Years* initiative as well as in work that focuses on implementing Michigan's plan for ESSA compliance

Information and digital literacy skill development are the foundation of excellent school library programs and are vitally important to successfully meeting Michigan Academic Standards. Each student should be able to experience a school library/media center environment where research and exploration are enhanced by a dedicated school librarian/media specialist.

- Studies in multiple states, including Michigan, show that schools with a school library staffed by a full-time certified teaching school librarian have a high impact on increasing student achievement regardless of socio-economic or education levels of the community. School Libraries Work! <http://www.scholastic.com/SLW2016/>
- A second study indicates that schools with school libraries show a statistically significant and positive impact on reading achievement in grades 4, 7, and 11. (*The Impact of Michigan School Librarians on Academic Achievement: Kids who have libraries succeed*, 2003).

- In a 2012 study by Lance and Schwarz, it was shown that students who are economically disadvantaged, black, Hispanic, or have disabilities, benefit proportionally more than general students from the presence of a full-time certified school library media specialist. *Latest Study: A Fulltime School Librarian Makes a Critical Difference in Boosting Student Achievement.* <http://www.slj.com/2013/03/research/librarian-required-a-new-study-shows-that-a-full-time-school-librarian-makes-a-critical-difference-in-boosting-student-achievement/>
- Furthermore, the above evidence-based surveys support the Department of Education’s ESSA Plan, especially “Supports to Students and Schools”, “Supports for Special Populations of Students”, and “Teacher and Leader Quality” as well as the Department’s Mission to “Support Learning and Learners” and many of its objectives.

Adopted February 17, 2017

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