



PA House of Representatives “One Librarian Per Public School Building”

Contact your State Representative to sign the co-sponsorship memoranda “*One Certified Librarian Per Public School*” being circulated by Rep. Mark Longiotti and Rep. Ryan Mackenzie.

Read the co-sponsorship memo at

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/Legis/CSM/showMemoPublic.cfm?chamber=H&SPick=20210&cosponId=34811>

Talking Points:

- All students deserve access to quality resources and instruction that a school library program with a certified librarian provides, not just those who live in a wealthy zip code.
- As of the 2018-19 school year, Pennsylvania ranked third among the states losing the most school librarians—589 full-time equivalents—since 2009-10. Over that period, the number of losses was exceeded only by California (1,054) and Florida (729).
- School librarians teach students to evaluate information that they read, see or view, distinguish reliable and trustworthy information from misinformation and fake news, and learn strategies to stay safe on the Internet.
- School librarians don’t just read stories and check out books, they are teachers who teach 43 identified and mandated Pennsylvania Academic Core Standards, contributing to higher graduation rates.
- Other types of libraries are required to have certified librarians in Pennsylvania, but not our public schools.
- School librarians and library programs can close the achievement gap among struggling learners. According to a [2012 study of Pennsylvania reading and writing test scores](#), we know that students who are poor, black, and Hispanic benefit proportionally more than students generally when they have a full-time certified librarian than those who don't.

For more information:

Lance, K. C., & Kachel, D. E. (2018). Why school librarians matter: What years of research tell us. *Phi Delta Kappan*, 99 (7), 15-20. Retrieved from <http://www.kappanonline.org/lance-kachel-school-librarians-matter-years-research>

PSLA. (2020). Why certified school librarians are essential. Retrieved from <https://www.psla.org/administrators>