SCHOOL LIBRARY TALKING POINTS

The Michigan library community recommends that funds be allocated by the Michigan Legislature to support school libraries staffed by certified school librarians.

Michigan ranks 32nd 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.

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

- Increase student achievement with a 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.

Please support equitable access to effective school libraries staffed by certified school librarians for all students in our state by creating specific funding for school libraries and by supporting the School Library bills: HB4663, HB4664, and HB4665.

All of Michigan’s students need school librarians who provide access to diverse resources, improve student achievement, prepare students for college and career, and support technology integration.

The library community and supporters ask that the legislature work toward creating and supporting specific funding for school libraries.

We call on Michigan lawmakers to support and enact bills HB4663, HB4664, and HB4665 that were introduced by Representative Camilleri, Representative Koleszar, and Representative O’Neal to ensure that no child is without access to a certified school librarian.

Seventeen organizations signed on to support the school library bills and 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/SLiSignon