



## MICHIGAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

### 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 31st in the nation in 4th grade reading achievement. In addition, a key finding of the recent Michigan State University Read by Grade Three Law Study is that there is a disparity across school districts in the availability of library resources.

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

- Increase student achievement with 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.

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

Support equitable access to effective school libraries staffed by certified school librarians for all students in our state.

Michigan ranks 47th in U.S. in supporting school libraries.

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.

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