

Regulations Governing School Library Services Proposed

State regulations require all school districts to provide library-media services connected to classroom studies in every school under the direction of a certified school library-media specialist (SLMS). Recently, Commissioner Davy submitted the regulations for publication at Proposal Level in the New Jersey Register. No changes to the existing rules are proposed. While the rules fall short of requiring a full-time certified SLMS in the library in every school, they do mandate that every school provide the following library resources and services for students:

- Access to computers
- District-approved instructional software
- Appropriate books including novels, anthologies and other research materials
- Supplemental materials that motivate students to read and to conduct research.

In addition to outlining the minimum services and resources each school must offer, the regulations mandate that the school library-media program be provided under the direction of a certified SLMS at N.J.A.C. 6A:13-2.1(h). These new requirements are intended to support two important goals stated in the commissioner's regulations. Namely, to implement a coherent curriculum that is aligned to the Core Curriculum Standards and to provide an academically rigorous, personalized environment to prepare students for post-secondary education and/or careers after graduation.

The regulations, which will remain in effect for one year, are intended to implement the School Funding Reform Act P.L.2007, c260 and can be reviewed at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/proposed/title6a/chap13.pdf>