

## **School Library Media Specialists and School Library Budgets**

Voter approval is no longer required for school budgets at or below the state's 2% spending cap levy. Under the state's school budget cap law, only districts whose proposed budget exceeds the 2% spending cap are required to get voter approval.

### **What actions can school library media specialists do to ensure that their school and their communities have well-funded school libraries staffed by state-certified school library media specialists?**

- Review your district and community school budget. Are school library staff and resources included in the budget? Have conversations with school administrators and school board members about the activities and events that are occurring in your school libraries. Post accomplishments and achievements to school webpage and other social media. Remember to focus on school library contributions to the instructional program and student success.

**Dates:** School Budget and Election Calendar: [http://www.njasl.org/Budgets\\_Funding](http://www.njasl.org/Budgets_Funding)

- Contact your state Senator and Assembly Representatives and ask them to ensure that school librarian positions and school library programs are funded in the state budget. Share with them stories of how your school library media program contributes to student success.

**Legislator Questions and Talking Points:** [http://www.njasl.org/Budgets\\_Funding](http://www.njasl.org/Budgets_Funding)

- Ask your state Senator and Assembly Representatives to consider co-sponsoring A1995 (Requires ratio of School Librarians) and A132 (Information Literacy). If they are already a sponsor, thank them for their support.

**Legislative Bill Details:** <http://www.njasl.org/Library-Legislation>

- Consider attending the NJEA Legislative Dinner in your county and speak with state legislators who attend the event about dedicated funding for school librarian positions and school library programs.

**Dates of NJEA Legislative Dinners:** <https://www.njea.org/2018-legislative-dinners/>

- Stop by your state legislators' offices and talk to their staff about the need for dedicated state funding for school librarians and library programs.

**Locate your state legislators:** [www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/members/legsearch.asp)

NJASL believes that every child deserves a well-funded school library program staffed by certified school librarians.

## Facts and Quotes You Can Use

Use The NJ Study of School Libraries: One Common Goal - Student Learning

The Study shows key contributions of NJ School Librarians regarding student success:

- Meeting NJ curriculum standards;
- Mastering of information literacy competencies;
- Developing familiarity of the research process;
- Modeling ethical use of information;
- Nurturing responsible use of technology;
- Promoting greater interest in reading; and
- Fostering reading for learning.

The research also shows that effective school library programs staffed by certified school librarians make meaningful contributions to the learning agendas of their schools.

- The school library is a learning center linked to classroom instruction;
- The school library supports the school's mission to produce literate and informed learners who can thrive in a digital, knowledge-based world;
- The school library is a 21st century classroom that provides an understanding of the information and technology students will confront as digital citizens;
- The school library sets the stage for student-initiated inquiry; and
- The school librarian is a co-teacher who undertakes an active role in engaging in shared instruction.

The NJ Study underscores the role of a dynamic school library program as a cost effective and essential means to prepare students to become reflective learners who are capable of locating, evaluating, and creating knowledge from information found in a variety of formats.

The report highlights these outcomes as fundamental to students' success in college and in the workplace. [http://www.njasl.org/NJ\\_Study](http://www.njasl.org/NJ_Study)

## What Else Can You Do?

- Share information from research on school libraries with school administrators and board members.
- Post on the library web site facts about how your library program helps students.
- Inform and educate state and local policy makers, parents, teachers, and other members of your school community about the positive impact well-funded, well-staffed school library programs have on student achievement.
- Ask decision makers to support and allocate funding for effective school library programs staffed by certified school librarians.
- Enlist support for funding for school library from parents, teachers and other colleagues.

## Other Supportive Statements:

- The school library provides a setting where students develop skills they will need as adults to locate, analyze, evaluate, interpret, and communicate information and ideas in an information-rich world.

- The school library permits the whole school population to equitably, efficiently, and economically access print and electronic media resources.

- The school librarian is able to teach students and teachers how to locate, access, evaluate, and use the information they need. This helps students to become efficient, responsible, and independent learners, able to function in the world.

- Well-funded school libraries lead to measurably higher student achievement.

- Several scholarly studies document the positive impact school libraries have on student achievement. The studies show that a school library staffed by certified school librarians and provided with adequate print and technological resources has a direct positive impact on student test scores.

- Studies in 23 states confirm the positive impact that school library programs have on student learning and achievement on standardized tests. The studies show that schools that spend more on school library resources including technology and print materials have higher average test scores.

School Library Research Summarized, Revised Edition by Debra Kachel, Mansfield University, 2013. (<http://keithcurrylance.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MU-LibAdvoBklt2013.pdf>)

- Closing the Achievement Gap - “Students who are poor, minority and students with disabilities, but who have full-time librarians, are at least twice as likely to have “Advanced” writing scores as their counterparts, without full-time librarians.”

Lance, Keith Curry, and Bill Schwartz. How Pennsylvania School Libraries Pay Off: Investments in Student Achievement and Academic Standards. PA School Library Project. N.p., Oct. 2012. (<http://paschoollibraryproject.org/research>)

## Other Resources

- School Libraries Work <http://library.dadeschools.net/promotions/School-Libraries-Work.pdf>

- “School Library Impact Studies” collected by the Library Research Service <http://www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies/>

- NJ Study of School Libraries: One Common Goal - Student Learning [http://www.njasl.org/NJ\\_Study](http://www.njasl.org/NJ_Study)

- School Libraries, Now More than Ever – CISSL Position Paper

[http://cissl.rutgers.edu/images/stories/docs/cissl\\_position\\_paper\\_revised.doc](http://cissl.rutgers.edu/images/stories/docs/cissl_position_paper_revised.doc)

**Have Questions? Need More Information?**

Contact Mary Moyer Stubbs, NJASL Consultant at [mmoyer@njasl.org](mailto:mmoyer@njasl.org).

**About NJASL**

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) is the only statewide organization for school librarians in New Jersey. NJASL believes that every student in every New Jersey school deserves to be taught by a State certified full-time school librarian supported by a resource-rich school library program. School librarians are essential partners in curriculum delivery and college and career readiness. They are leaders in the integration of technology, information and digital literacies, and the professional development for school staff. Learn more about NJASL by visiting [www.njasl.org](http://www.njasl.org).