



School Library Media Specialists and School Library Budgets

Voter approval is not 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: https://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

- Ask your state Senator and Assembly Representatives to co-sponsor A1995 /S2394 (Requires ratio of School Librarians) and A132/2933 (Information Literacy). Thank legislators who are already sponsors for their support. **Legislation Details:** <http://www.njasl.org/Library-Legislation>.

- Attend the NJEA Legislative Dinner in your county and speak with state legislators who attend. Check with your county education association for dates: <https://www.njea.org/county-presidents-offices/>

- Visit your state legislators' offices to talk to 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

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

Facts and Quotes from the NJ Study

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

Key contributions of NJ School Librarians related to student success in:

- 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.

Other Findings:

- 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.
- Effective school library programs staffed by certified school librarians make meaningful contributions to the learning agendas of their schools.

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. https://njasl.org/NJ_Study

Library Bill of Rights

A school library media specialist ensures students in K-12 public schools are promised the right of privacy and confidentiality in their library use. [ALA Library Bill of Rights](#)



How to Advocate

- **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 in order to become efficient, responsible, and independent learners, who are ready to become global citizens.
- Well-funded school libraries lead to measurably higher student achievement.
- 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)
- 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, Schwartz)

Resources

- 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>)
- 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/>
- School Library Research Summarized, Revised Edition by Debra Kachel, Mansfield University, 2013. (<http://keithcurrylance.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/MU-LibAdvoBklt2013.pdf>)
- School Libraries, Now More than Ever – CISSL Position Paper http://cissl.rutgers.edu/images/stories/docs/cissl_position_paper_revised.doc



Have Questions? Need More Information?

Please contact Tricina Beebe, NJASL Advocacy Liaison (advocacy@njasl.org) or Mary Moyer Stubbs, NJASL Legislative Consultant (mmoyer@njasl.org).

About NJASL

The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) is the only statewide organization for school librarians in New Jersey. The organization advocates for high standards for librarianship and library media programs in the public, private and parochial schools in New Jersey to inspire excellence in school librarianship and learning.

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.

NJASL provides school library media specialists with educational opportunities and current information aligned with state and national learning standards to ensure that all school libraries empower students, faculty, and staff to become effective and ethical users and producers of information. Learn more about NJASL by visiting www.njasl.org.