School Librarians are Uniquely Positioned to Enhance Student Learning

School Librarians, certified as School Library Media Specialists in New Jersey, are professionals who positively influence student learning and help teachers to craft assignments that promote critical thinking and the development of life-long learning skills.

"School librarians are masters at leading from the middle, helping colleagues implement standards and new ideas. Because the librarian has a whole school perspective, he or she can connect teachers to the principal’s vision and to one another, strengthen learning in each classroom by integrating the teaching of information skills and the use of technology, and foster connections between the teaching and learning in the school and the outside world."

~Barbara Stripling, ALA Past President

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Research Confirms
Research studies from more than 24 states demonstrate that professionally credentialed school librarians and active school library programs have positive quantitative and qualitative impacts on student learning.

“... school librarians are highly involved leaders who play a critical role in their schools through consistent and sustained collaboration with other educators.”

~ National Center for Literacy Education (2013)

“... school libraries can be a very effective tool in closing the achievement gap.”

~ Briana Hovendick Francis, Keith Curry Lance and Zeth Lietzau, The Third Colorado Study (2010)

“Findings show that New Jersey school libraries and school librarians contribute in rich and diverse ways to the intellectual life of a school, and to the development of students who can function in a complex and increasingly digital information environment.”


“... all K–12 students need and deserve quality school library programs with full-time certified staff. Students are more likely to succeed when they have library programs that are well staffed, well funded, technologically well equipped, well stocked, and more accessible. And, the neediest learners may benefit the most from trained librarians and quality library programs.”


The New Jersey Association of School Librarians (NJASL) believes students achieve success through inquiry-based, collaborative school library programs led by credentialed school library media specialists.

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.

Visit njasl.org to learn more.