



STATE OF MICHIGAN

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, ARTS AND LIBRARIES
LANSING

DR. WILLIAM M. ANDERSON
DIRECTOR

October 15, 2004

Dear Friends of Michigan School Libraries:

In 1993, the Colorado State Library published the landmark study, The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement. This study revealed what many had known all along, that there is a direct link between student access to school library media specialists in well-equipped, automated libraries and achievement on standardized tests.

Fueled by concern for the condition of school libraries in many Michigan public schools, the State Library of Michigan contracted with RSL Research Group in 2002 to conduct a similar study. The Impact of Michigan School Librarians on Academic Achievement: Kids who have Libraries Succeed documents a positive and statistically significant effect of school libraries on reading scores. The project, indeed, confirmed the importance of qualified school librarians, quality information resources and technology, and the availability of school libraries to students and faculty.

If kids who have libraries succeed, then funding school libraries is essential. As you consider decisions that affect school libraries and media specialists, I encourage you to remember the impact of quality school libraries on achievement test scores.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christie Pearson Brandau".

Christie Pearson Brandau
State Librarian