

# The 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Library Media Specialist

Today's School Library Media Specialists are certified teachers who empower students to be critical thinkers, enthusiastic readers, skillful researchers, and ethical users of information.

School Library Media Specialists have many important roles in their schools:

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School Library Media Specialists are **teachers**. They work with students in the school library, in school labs, and in classrooms. They teach students how to research, how to be information literate, and how to be good digital citizens.

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School Library Media Specialists are **reading experts**. They provide equitable access to reading materials including electronic resources and eBooks. They build a culture of reading in their schools, teach reading skills, and match students to 'just right' books.

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School Library Media Specialists are **technology integrators**. They are most often technology leaders in their schools. They teach technology skills and work with teachers to integrate technology into the curriculum in a meaningful way.

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School Library Media Specialists are **resource locators**. They find resources (print, electronic, multimedia) to support curriculum and instruction. They curate resources for easy access by the school community.

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School Library Media Specialists are **collaborators**. They work with teachers to plan, instruct, and evaluate student learning. They partner with other organizations to provide high quality services and programs to the school community.

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School Library Media Specialists are **professional development providers**. They design and present professional development for teachers that supports the school improvement plan including technology integration.

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School Library Media Specialists are **leaders**. They are active on school committees, contribute to building initiatives, and are respected for their thoughts and ideas.

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School Library Media Specialists provide **equal access** to technology and resources to ALL students. Their services are especially important to at-risk students.

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Most importantly, School Library Media Specialists work with the entire school community and, as shown by multiple research studies, have a significant **positive impact on student achievement**. They provide critical services to ensure students are **ready for college and careers**.

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