

Effective School Libraries Alignment with MDE Strategic Plan¹

Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan

MISSION

Support learning and learners

Certified school librarians support learning and learners.

There is evidence that school librarians support and positively impact reading engagement and access to books, reading achievement, information literacy skills, graduation rate, ACT scores, college success, and effective technology integration.²

VISION

Every learner in Michigan's public schools will have an inspiring, engaging, and caring learning environment that fosters creative and critical thinkers who believe in their ability to positively influence Michigan and the world beyond.

Certified school librarians contribute to providing this vision for every learner by providing safe and welcoming spaces for all learners within their schools. The school librarian standards as reflected in the Michigan SL21 Benchmarks³ are anchored in the shared foundations of Inquire, Include, Collaborate, Curate, Engage, and Explore. The school librarian teaches inquiry-based lessons to foster critical thinking and to engage learners in collaboration and creativity. School librarians encourage "lifelong learners within the community."⁴

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- All students have access to high-quality instruction regardless of their gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, race, economic status, native language, or physical, emotional, and cognitive abilities to close the student achievement and opportunity gaps that currently exist.
- All educators are encouraged to be creative and innovative. All educators are adequately compensated and respected for their professionalism, and have the resources, support, and training needed to educate students.
- All students are encouraged to express their creativity, have voice in their own learning, feel connected to their schools, and have authentic, meaningful relationships with educators.
- All students are provided every opportunity to achieve the broadest range of life dreams.
- Families and communities are essential partners of teachers, support staff, and administrators in the education of students.
- In support of students and their achievement, the Michigan Department of Education is coordinated, aligned, and properly resourced, and collaborates with school districts and a wide range of partners and stakeholders.

Certified school librarians support these guiding principles. They provide equity of access to high quality diverse curriculum and personal learning resources for all learners. They also support educators' access to the materials and resources that they need. As teachers themselves, they provide high-quality instruction to learners. They support student and educator creativity and innovation. Certified school librarians also communicate with and partner with families and communities.^{3,5}

GOALS

1. Expand early childhood learning opportunities

2. Improve early literacy achievement

School librarians support early literacy achievement.^{6,7,8,9} Well-stocked school libraries and student and teacher engagement with the certified school librarian (library media specialist) are included in the School-wide Essential Practices for Literacy.¹⁰

3. Improve the health, safety, and wellness of all learners

School librarians provide safe spaces for their students and provide access to resources to support the health, safety, and wellness of all learners.^{11,12}

4. Expand secondary learning opportunities for all students

5. Increase the percentage of all students who graduate from high school

School librarians support the goal of increasing the percentage of students who graduate from high school.¹³

6. Increase the percentage of adults with a post-secondary credential

School librarians support students' readiness for post-secondary work. Studies show that students who have had access to a certified school librarian are better prepared with information literacy skills that will be used in the post-secondary work.¹⁴

7. Increase the numbers of certified teachers in areas of shortage

Certified school librarians are one of the current shortage areas.^{15,16} MAME would like to continue to work with MDE to increase the number of certified teachers in library media.

8. Provide adequate and equitable school funding

Endnotes

1 Michigan Department of Education. "Michigan's Top 10 Strategic Education Plan." *Michigan Department of Education*, Aug. 2020, www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140--568996--,00.html.

2 Michigan Association for Media in Education. *Compilation of Evidence in Support of School Libraries with School Library Media Specialists at Each School*. MAME, 2020, bit.ly/evidSLib.

3 Michigan Department of Education, Library of Michigan. *School Libraries in the 21st Century (SL 21) Program: Qualitative Benchmarks for Michigan School Libraries*. Library of Michigan, Sept. 2018, www.michigan.gov/documents/libraryofmichigan/lm_school_libraries_SL_21_measures_2018_653912_7.pdf.

4 See page 18 of #3: *School Libraries in the 21st Century (SL 21) Program*

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- 6 Rodney, Marcia J., et al. *The Impact of Michigan School Librarians on Academic Achievement: Kids Who Have Libraries Succeed*. Library of Michigan, 2003, wayback.archive-it.org/418/20150104053005/www.michigan.gov/documents/hal_lm_schllibstud_y03_76626_7.pdf.
- 7 Kachel, Deborah E., and Keith Curry Lance. *Latest Study: A Full-Time School Librarian Makes a Critical Difference in Boosting Student Achievement*. *School Library Journal*, 7 Mar. 2013, www.slj.com/?detailStory=librarian-required-a-new-study-shows-that-a-full-time-school-librarian-makes-a-critical-difference-in-boosting-student-achievement.
- 8 Lance, Keith Curry, and Deborah E. Kachel. "Why School Librarians Matter: What Years of Research Tell Us." *Phi Delta Kappan*, vol. 99, no. 7, 26 Mar. 2018, pp. 15–20, kappanonline.org/lance-kachel-school-librarians-matter-years-research/.
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- 10 Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators General Education Leadership Network Early Literacy Task Force. *Essential School-Wide and Center-Wide Practices in Literacy*. Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, 2016, www.gomaisa.org/downloads/gelndocs/schoolandcenterlevelessentials.pdf.
- 11 Merga, Margaret K. "Libraries as Wellbeing Supportive Spaces in Contemporary Schools." *Journal of Library Administration*, vol. 61, no. 6, 2021, pp. 659–675, www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01930826.2021.1947056?src=recsys.
- 12 American Association of School Librarians. *AASL Standards Framework for School Libraries Crosswalk with the ASCD Whole Child Tenets*. American Association of School Librarians, 2020.
- 13 Coker, Elizabeth. *Certified Teacher-Librarians, Library Quality and Student Achievement in Washington State Public Schools: The Washington State School Library Impact Study Executive Summary*. Washing Library Media Association, 1 Apr. 2015.
- 14 Smalley, Topsy N. "College Success: High School Librarians Make the Difference." *Journal of Academic Librarianship*, vol. 30, no. 3, 1 May 2004, pp. 193–198, weloveschoollibraries.pbworks.com/f/Topsey%20Smalley1.pdf.
- 15 Michigan Department of Education. *Critical Shortages: Federal Loan Forgiveness*. Michigan Department of Education, 1 Dec. 2021, www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Critical_Shortages_-_Federal_Loan_Forgiveness_645742_7.pdf.
- 16 Michigan Department of Education. *Critical Shortage Disciplines for Employment of Retirees*. Michigan Department of Education, 13 Oct. 2021, www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/2020-21_Critical_Shortage_Retirees_List_683021_7.pdf.