



Michigan Association for Media in Education
1407 Rensen Street, Lansing, MI 48910
Phone: 517.394.2808
email: mame@mimame.org
Website: http://mimame.org

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April 12, 2018

TO: Michigan Superintendent of Public Instruction

FROM: Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME)
1407 Rensen St.
Lansing, MI 48910

On February 8 and February 15, 2018, the Michigan Department of Education released a clarification for the employment of ND certified school librarians. Some school districts have expressed concern that there are not enough certified school librarians to fill all the positions in Michigan public schools.

The Michigan Association for Media in Education would like to request that ND certified teachers be placed on the critical shortage list.

As evidence we would like to submit the Federal [Teacher Shortage Area](#) list, where Library Media Specialists are an area of need in many other states.

MAME also has anecdotal evidence in the form of multiple stories from members working in districts in Michigan that were trying to hire a Library Media (ND) teacher. These districts report that there have been very few and even zero applicants for the open ND position. For instance, Kalamazoo High School had an opening for a certified library media teacher at their high school this past summer. Initially, they received zero applicants. Kalamazoo chose to hire a teacher from the high school English department who was interested in completing the requirements for library media certification.

In addition, since January 28, 2011, when MOECS went online, there have been only 59 ND endorsements issued. Of those endorsements, only 28 were prepared in Michigan, at either Wayne State University or University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (which has ceased recommending certificates for the ND endorsement). The remaining endorsements were either Michigan teachers

completing programs from out of state schools or veteran teachers from other states moving to Michigan and receiving their first Michigan certificate.

In the 2016-2017 school year, only 8% of Michigan schools, employed a full-time certified school librarian and only 18% employed a full or part-time certified school librarian. With “Access to a Library Media Specialist” added to the ESSA School Quality/Student Success Accountability Indicator, school librarians and libraries added to the GELN *School-Wide and Center-Wide Practices in Literacy* document, pressure to improve literacy from the Third Grade Reading Bill, and the recent memo from OPPS stressing the importance of staffing school libraries/media centers with ND certified personnel, we anticipate the need for teachers of Library Media (ND) to increase.

Sheila Alles, Chief Deputy Superintendent, MDE in a letter responding to a MAME member said the following “Currently, we do not have and are not producing an adequate supply of teachers with ND endorsements to meet the needs of districts.”

Thus, MAME asks that MDE consider this request to place teachers of Library Media (ND) on the critical shortage list. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Klaudia Janek". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Klaudia Janek, President
MAME