Supporting Literacy and Achievement for ALL Students
By Supporting School Libraries in Michigan

Issue:
Michigan's Reading Achievement and Support for School Libraries Rank Near the Bottom Nationally

Michigan's 4th grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading scores have dropped by 1.4 points between 2003 and 2013. Michigan is one of only six states that has suffered a *loss* in reading achievement.[1]

Michigan experienced the highest loss of certified school librarians in the nation. The number of school librarians dropped from 1429 to 531 (a 63% loss).[2] Michigan now ranks 46th in the country with 1 certified working school librarian for every 2494 students versus the national average of 1 school librarian for every 1085 students.[3]

Proposed Action:
Add School Library Programs to Best Practice Funding

Add the following to the State School Aid Best Practice Incentive under 22f:

> Implement school library programs at each school that meet the qualified or exemplary status of "SL21 Measurement Benchmarks for Michigan School Libraries for 21st Century Schools." [These benchmarks were authored by the Library of Michigan, an office of the Michigan Department of Education, and are based on national standards.] [4]

Why School Libraries Staffed by Certified School Librarians?

School Libraries are Critical in Supporting Student Achievement Especially Reading by Third Grade and Achievement of At-Risk Students

- Multiple studies in over 20 states including Michigan show that school libraries with a full-time certified teaching school librarian have a high impact on increasing student reading achievement regardless of socio-economic or educational levels of the community.[5]
- In fact, students who are economically disadvantaged, black, Hispanic, or have disabilities benefit proportionally more than general students from the presence of a full-time certified librarian.[6]
- Children in poverty grow up with fewer books in the home and less access to bookstores and public libraries[7], making access to books through school libraries more important.

School Librarians are Important to Transition to Digital Learning and New Standards

- School librarians are most often the technology leaders in their schools.[8] They provide professional development for teachers in technology integration, resource access and utilization, and digital citizenship. They support, collaborate and co-teach with classroom teachers in reading development, in integrating information and technology literacy skills into the curriculum, and in meeting the expectations for research set forth in the Common Core State Standards. [9]

Michigan's State Board of Education Passed a Resolution in Support of School Libraries

- The State Board of Education recognizes the important role played by school libraries staffed by certified school librarians in the education of Michigan's students and passed a resolution of support on October 14, 2014.[10]

(1) "Why Michigan Is So Far Behind Others on Education." *Detroit Free Press*, 13 Apr. 2014. http://www.freep.com/article/20140413/OPINION01/304130042/Editorial-Why-Michigan-far-behind-others-education
(2) Michigan Center for Educational Performance and Information http://www.michigan.gov/cepi/0,4546,7-113-21423_30446---,00.html
(3) National Center for Education Statistics http://nces.ed.gov/ccd/pub_snf_report.asp
(4) http://www.michigan.gov/sl21
(5) Library Research Service http://www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies
(6) http://www.slj.com/2013/03/research/librarian-required-a-new-study-shows-that-a-full-time-school-librarian-makes-a-critical-difference-in-boosting-student-achievement/
(7) http://www-personal.umich.edu/~sbneuman/pdf/AccessToPrint.pdf
(8) http://www.thedigitalshift.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/LibraryLeader-Infographic_12_5_13_F2aWeb.jpg
(9) http://www.achieve.org/publications/implementing-common-core-state-standards-role-school-librarian-action-brief
(10)http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/MILOM/2014/10/29/file_attachments/336690/SBE%2BResolution%2Bon%2BSchool%2BLibraries.pdf

Michigan Association for Media in Education
1407 Rensen Street
Lansing, MI 48910
517-394-2808

MAME
Michigan Association for Media in Education

Gwenn Marchesano, President
gmarchesano@mimame.org
Kathy Lester, Past-President
kathyL@mimame.org