

**SCHOOL LIBRARIES DON'T MATTER WITHOUT**

**HIGHLY QUALIFIED LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALISTS**

Research has shown that school libraries staffed by qualified library

media specialists are needed to have a positive impact on student achievement.

-School Libraries Work!

According to researchers at Syracuse University School of Information Studies, “students who attend New York schools with certified media specialists have higher scores on their fourth grade English Language Arts test. “ Researchers there have found an almost 10-point difference in scores. This research is based on data submitted by 1,612 schools in New York State.

The preliminary reports from the study “support what school librarians already knew. Best intentions only go so far. We need people educated in school librarianship and dedicated to motivating students to read and learn in our schools.”

-Professor Ruth Small, Center for Digital Literacy, NYLA Website(Page 1 of this document is the back of the brochure. Page two is the inside of the brochure. The section with the picture of the librarian folds over the far left of this sheet. )

Created by Catalina Charles

Head Library Media Specialist at Advocacy High School

123 Keep the Librarian Road

Peaceville, NY 12345

 

**The Advantages of Certified School Library Media Specialists**



 

“The spiral denotes growth, expansion, on going-learning, and the path ahead. This is the journey, the sense of forward motion that serves to highly energize and motivate, and the process that brings us to maturity.”

 - The Smart Work Company

I have found that as I travel through my days as a school librarian I often reflect on this quote and allow it to guide me through my experiences with information literacy to achieve my goals. I share it with you to ponder while reading this brochure.

**Without library media specialists, students will not receive the proper information literacy skills to be productive members of society**.

In the year 2000, The New York State Regents Commission on Library Services conducted a study called the School Library Impact Studies. These studies showed that state reading and math test scores were improved by 10 to 15 percent in schools, which had strong library programs and qualified school library media specialists.

For more information on the importance of strong school libraries and school library media specialists please visit Resources for School Librarians at

<http://www.sldirectory.com/libsf/resf/statistics.html>

Schools without a library media specialist are doing a great injustice to its staff and students.

The library media specialist can provide many valuable resources including…

* custom-designed lessons taught in the library or in the classroom
* Interlibrary loan of books not found in our collection
* Technology lessons integrated into the curriculum
* Videotaping of classroom presentations
* Instruction on the use of digital cameras, scanners, copiers, and software programs
* Equipment, maps, globes, and instructional materials not available in all classrooms
* Instruction on the use of databases
* Working with students on their research projects using the Big6 Research Model
* Extended library times by prearrangement
* Reference and instructional software
* Full text magazine database for all major professional and student magazines and journals.

- Pat Miller, Tools of the Trade

To continue to receive all the programs you and your staff have become accustomed to, the library media specialist is an absolute necessity. Without a certified library media specialist in place in each library within the district, student achievement will take a turn for the worse.

**According to the research, this school cannot afford to lose their school library media specialist even though the budget is tight.**

**In the face of No Child Left Behind, every staff member who adds to student achievement is a non-disposable member of the learning community.**

 

Please make the right decision and allow the path to maturity to carry on for our students through the assistance of professional, certified school library media specialists.

Research Process

Databases to be used will include:

* Library Information Science and Technology Abstracts
* Library Literature
* Educational Full Text
* EBSCOhost

I will begin my search with the databases because I want to locate resources that are from scholarly journals first and then supplement the research through additional search engines.

Search terms to be used include:

* school libraries and test scores
* school librarians and academic achievement
* schools without librarians
* elimination of librarian and budget cuts

Search engines to be used:

* Google
* Google scholar
* Ask.com
* Yahoo!’s Advanced Search
* Live’s Advanced Search

Works Cited

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