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Kentucky
Department
of Education

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Beyond Proficiency @ your library®

Vision: *School media librarians positively impacting student achievement through collaboration, instruction, and utilization of resources for next generation learning in the library media center*

BEYOND PROFICIENCY @ YOUR LIBRARY®

KENTUCKY GUIDELINES FOR HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAMS

Kentucky school students deserve the best school library media programs in the country.

Beyond Proficiency @ your library® provides guidelines for highly effective Library Media Programs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and should be used to guide school media librarians in improving the library programs they administer. Beyond Proficiency @ your library® is also intended to inform administrators and school-based decision making (SBDM) councils about high-quality Library Media Programs. The standards by which the school media librarian is evaluated indicate the need for a versatile educational leader who is an instructional partner, an informational specialist, a teacher and the administrator of the Library Media Program.

It is imperative that administrators, SBDM councils, teachers, parents and students as well as school media librarians demand high- quality Library Media Programs within their schools. When that effort is realized, effective Library Media Programs will help empower students to achieve information literacy within their academic expectations.

The school Library Media Program is an integral part of the school's total education program. In the 21st century, success in life and work includes the use of higher-order thinking skills, collaboration, innovation, and information and media literacy. Adequate library media facilities, with appropriate resources and professional personnel, are key components to success in these areas, as well as to success in implementing content area standards.

EVERY CHILD
PROFICIENT & PREPARED FOR SUCCESS
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SCHOOL MEDIA LIBRARIANS IMPACT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Kentucky's school librarians support teachers in implementing new content standards and help students achieve in the 21st century. According to the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner*, "Multiple literacies, including digital, visual, textual, and technological, have now joined information literacy as crucial skills for this century." School Media Librarians are trained to be leaders in all these areas of learning. Librarians fulfill multiple roles in their positions, including Leader, Instructional Partner, Informational Specialist, Teacher and Program Administrator (AASL, 2007). Many of Kentucky's school library media specialists are unable to fulfill these roles due to scheduling issues, staff reductions, inadequate budgets, and a lack of awareness by administrators of the roles for which librarians are trained (Houston, 2008).

WHAT DOES RESEARCH TELL US?

Nineteen national research studies have shown a measurable impact of school libraries and library media specialists on student achievement. *School Libraries Work!* (Scholastic, 2008) summarizes these studies:

> Research consistently "shows a positive relationship between school libraries and student achievement. The research studies show that school libraries can have a positive impact on student achievement—whether such achievement is measured in terms of reading scores, literacy, or learning more generally. ***A school library program that is adequately staffed, resourced, and funded can lead to higher student achievement regardless of the socio-economic or educational levels of the community.***"

"Above all, school librarians should love children, have inquiring minds, and respect books and information as one way to support those minds." (*Tales Out of the School Library*, 2010)

"Where administrators value strong library programs and can see them doing their part for student success, students are more likely to thrive academically." (Lance, 2010)

STANDARDS FOR THE 21ST-CENTURY LEARNER

Learners use skills, resources, and tools to:

1. Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge.
2. Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge.
3. Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society.
4. Pursue personal and aesthetic growth.

Excerpted from *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* by the American Association of School Librarians, a division of the American Library Association, copyright © 2007 (American Library Association). Available for download at www.ala.org/aasl/standards.

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RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF KENTUCKY SCHOOL MEDIA LIBRARIANS

The Kentucky Department of Education supports the use of the *Standards for the 21st Century Learner*, published by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), as the standards document for library media education in Kentucky's public school libraries. The document can be downloaded here.

The Kentucky Department of Education also recommends *Standards for the 21st Century Learner in Action* for use in implementing the aforementioned standards. This AASL publication includes strands, indicators, benchmarks and action examples for each of the standards. The document is available for purchase from the AASL online store.

The Kentucky Department of Education recommends *Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Media Programs* for use in developing high-quality library media programs. This AASL publication is available for purchase from the AASL online store.

The Kentucky Department of Education recommends the following resources for use in guiding school media librarians, school administrators and other school leaders in improving the library programs at their schools:

- Characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning in the Library
- School Library Media Program Rubric
- School Media Librarian Evaluation Instrument

AN EFFECTIVE SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM IS BUILT BY PROFESSIONALS WHO MODEL LEADERSHIP AND BEST PRACTICE FOR THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

"The school library media center has one purpose: to support the curriculum of the school."
(*American School Board Journal* – August, 2009)