SCHOOL LIBRARY GUIDELINES

South Dakota 2010

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Adopted by the South Dakota State Library Board, April 2011

Endorsed by the South Dakota Library Association, January 2011

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INTRODUCTION:

Effective school libraries make a powerful difference in student achievement and help to form the habit of reading and learning for a lifetime. To be effective it is essential that a school library have a place, a program, and a professional.

"Effective school libraries are much more than books. They are learning hubs, each with a full range of print and electronic resources that support student achievement. Today's school libraries must be gathering places for people of all ages and all interests to explore and debate ideas. School libraries have the most significant impact on learning outcomes when they are supervised by a [school librarian], who works collaboratively with teachers, to help all students develop a love of reading, become skilled users of ideas and information, and explore the world of print and electronic media resources." (School Libraries Work! p. 6)

The following school library guidelines are based on best practices from the professional research as well as the work of the American Association of School Librarians, the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards: Library Media Standards, the International Society for Technology in Education, and the Partnership for 21st Century Schools.

When school boards, administrators and librarians use these guidelines in conjunction with the South Dakota School Library Content Standards to guide their library development, they will be taking an important step toward assuring that graduates of South Dakota's PK-12 school districts are prepared to successfully participate in our global world.

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL LIBRARY MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the school library to:

1. provide all learners a collaborative program for learning and teaching
2. provide all learners a place for both a physical and a virtual learning environment
3. provide all learners access to a highly qualified professional for leadership in creating, promoting, and sustaining the program and place

THE PROGRAM: LEARNING AND TEACHING

1. The school library program is guided by a mission with goals and objectives aligning with the overall mission of the school and district.
2. The school library program supports, promotes and participates in collaboration, differentiation, and integration across all content areas in the library and in the classroom.
3. The school library program promotes reading as fundamental to all academic and personal learning.
4. The school library program provides learners with a current, relevant, diverse, and organized collection of physical and virtual resources for the purposes of academic and personal inquiry.
5. The school library program provides collaborative instruction in multiple literacies such as information literacy, media literacy, visual literacy, and technology literacy.
6. The school library program promotes and sponsors special events and programs that celebrate and encourage the arts, literacy, and learning.
7. The school library program participates in learner assessments designed to gather process and product data.
8. The school library program utilizes technology as a tool for learning and teaching.
9. The school library program aligns all instruction and resources with local curriculum, state content standards, and national initiatives.

THE PLACE: LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

1. The school library provides space for a variety of activities, including individual learning activities, small group collaborative work, large group instruction, and special events and programming.
2. The school library provides flexible and equitable access throughout the school day, including before and after school hours.
3. The school library provides access to current technology for all learners.
4. The school library provides an inviting and secure atmosphere, including furnishings and storage, which are age appropriate and comfortable.
5. The school library provides both a physical and a virtual collection of resources which is adequate in size and scope to meet the curricular and personal needs and interests of all learners.
6. The school library collection is maintained by an annual budget which supports the mission and allows for stability and growth.
7. The school library is a welcoming environment with staff who are trained to instruct, guide, and support learners.

THE PROFESSIONAL: LEADERSHIP FOR LEARNING

1. The school librarian is a certified teacher librarian.
2. The school librarian is supported by a staff assistant/s as is appropriate and necessary.
3. The school librarian maintains a physical and a virtual library presence to support the community of learners.
4. The school librarian demonstrates leadership and advocacy by participating on building, district, state, and/or national level curriculum and planning committees.
5. The school librarian belongs to and actively participates in library-related professional organizations.
6. The school librarian is involved in professional development opportunities both as a presenter and a participant.
7. The school librarian works with school administration and staff to implement strategies based upon the latest educational data, research, trends, and philosophies.
8. The school librarian collaborates with staff to deliver meaningful and sufficient instruction and experiences in the use of library resources.
9. The school librarian promotes, models, and teaches professional and ethical participation in a global world.
10. The school librarian maintains and updates school board-approved library policies and procedures.
11. The school librarian employs current and effective techniques and technology to manage library procedures and collections.
12. The school librarian, in conjunction with the school and community, develops a current strategic plan based on programming, statistics, and future trends.
13. The school librarian models, encourages, and celebrates a love of reading.

APPENDIX A: RESOURCES

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APPENDIX B: ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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School Library Task Force Members:

Daria Bossman, Assistant State Librarian for Development Services, State Library

Lee Crary, School Library Coordinator West River, State Library

Muriel Deckert, Librarian, Milbank Middle School/High School,
SDLA School Library Section Chair

Brenda DeHaan, Librarian, Andes Central School

Linda Demery, Librarian, Faulkton School

Becky Guffin, Assistant Superintendent, Aberdeen School District

Rod Haugen, Principal, South Park Elementary, Rapid City

Jean Kirschenman, Librarian, Brookings High School

Shari O'Keefe, Librarian, Stevens High School, Rapid City

Angela Ostrander, Librarian, Faith School/Community Library

Gayle Pearson, Librarian, West Side Elementary, Sisseton

Ann Smith, Federal Programs/Grants/Libraries, Sioux Falls School District

Kerri Smith, Librarian, Washington High School, Sioux Falls,
SDLA School Library Section Past-Chair

Marta Stirling, Language Arts Specialist, Department of Education

Joan Upell, School Library Coordinator East River, State Library

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STATE LIBRARY
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800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2294

T 605.773.3131
F 605.773.6962
www.library.sd.gov