An effective school library program has a certified school librarian at the helm, provides personalized learning environments, and offers equitable access to resources to ensure a well-rounded education for every student.

—AASL Position Statement, Definition of an Effective School Library Program

RESEARCH – WHAT IT SHOWS
More than 60 state-level school library impact studies in 25 states conclude that quality school library services result in higher student achievement:

- Higher graduation rates
- Higher proficiency in reading, math, science, history, and writing
- Higher performance on standardized tests among economically challenged students
- Lower percentage of students scoring “unsatisfactory” in reading
- Improved writing skills and research abilities
- Improved ability to find, evaluate, use, and integrate diverse information resources

Is your library Future Ready?
Take the 21st Century School Library Self-Assessment


South Dakota’s Future Ready School Libraries

Printed 500 copies at $.22 per copy on recycled paper.
SOUTH DAKOTA’S REALITY CHECK

Reality for all PK-12 students in SD

- 20% of school systems do not provide a library facility, therefore...
- 7,000 students do not have access to a school library

Reality for systems that have school libraries

- 28% of SD systems have a certified librarian on staff
- 25% of school library staff are certified school librarians

Fewer librarians to teach and assist students

Decrease in new materials expenditures per student

Overall decrease in staffing; increase in teacher ratio

RECOMMENDATIONS

Content and Access

- Develop curriculum and programming that supports personalized learning environments.
- Ensure equitable access in both print and digital formats.
- Invest strategically in digital resources that complement the SDSL eResources/databases.
- Promote and support digital citizenship and student privacy.

Space

- Implement flexible spaces in the library to promote inquiry, collaboration, and community.
- Ensure accessibility in terms of hours of operation, layout, and atmosphere.

Staffing

- Include in school staff, a certified teacher-librarian and an appropriate level of support staff in every school.
- Promote librarians as leaders beyond the library in strategic planning.
- Include librarians as facilitators of professional learning and teaching.

Governance and Infrastructure

- Address systemic issues that inhibit the development of high-quality school library programs.
- Leverage funding to strengthen school libraries.
- Implement flexible scheduling for school libraries.

Assessment and Accountability

- Analyze the library program through usage data and program statistics.
- Communicate with stakeholders with regard to library support of school and district goals.
- Use the SDSL 21st Century School Library Self-Assessment as part of the formal evaluation process.
- Encourage librarians to apply for or work toward the 21st Century School Library Award.
- Include library goals in School Improvement Plan.