



Dear Secretary Schopp:

The South Dakota Library Association is dedicated to the highest quality of education for the students of South Dakota. An essential factor in that high quality is the qualifications of all certified staff. In the interest of providing the most highly qualified school librarians for the students of South Dakota the members of the School Section are concerned about a discrepancy in the Administrative Rules governing certification of school librarians. It is our hope that this issue can be addressed within the process and procedures that are already in motion concerning DOE recommendations for statute changes during the 2014 session.

The School Section passed the following resolution at their annual meeting on September 26, 2013:

Whereas the School Library Section of the South Dakota Library Association believes that the Department of Education's certification/endorsements should reflect the highest standards within the profession, and we affirm the current state statutes as meeting those highest standards within the profession: 24:15:06:17 and 24:53:09:02.

However, we affirm that confusing and conflicting language within the South Dakota Administrative Rule 24:15:03:08, Restrictions on additional authorizations, should be changed to reflect that a School Media Endorsement is a recognition of greater expertise and training beyond the bachelors in education degree and be aligned with current certification licensing as outlined in 24:15:06:17, K -12 library media education endorsement, and 24:53:09:02, Preschool through grade 12 school library media specialist education program.

We believe that deleting the following phrase "school library/media endorsement programs" in an existing exception in section two of 24:15:03:08 will rectify and correct the situation:

24:15:03:08. Restrictions on additional authorizations. The following restrictions apply to the granting of additional authorizations completed either through coursework or through verification of having passed the content specific state test:

(2) Driver education, American Sign Language, K-12 Deaf Education, Braille, K-12 Blind and Visually Impaired, Lakota languages, junior ROTC, English as new language education, birth to age 21 school psychological examiner, *school library/media endorsement programs*, or a principal program may be issued on any certificate or as stand-alone certificates. An English as new language endorsement requires a bachelor's degree in education;

Thank you for your consideration in resolving this issue. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Sharlene Lien
South Dakota Library Association, School Library Section Chair

Scott Ahola
South Dakota Library Association, President