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

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**Is your library Future Ready?**

Take the 21st Century **School Library** Self-Assessment


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**South Dakota’s Future Ready School Libraries**

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.