BOOK ACCESS & SCHOOL LIBRARIES

INCREASE IN READING ACHIEVEMENT

More than 60 school library impact studies in 25 states conclude that quality school library services result in higher student achievement. Increasing access to books is the most successful way to increase reading achievement for low-income students. 61% of low-income students have no age-appropriate books in the home, making access to the school library collection vital.

FICTION READING BUILDS EMPATHY

Multiple studies link reading fiction to an increase in empathy and prosocial behavior. Processing fiction stories helps students understand others' lives by getting inside the heads of the characters and experiencing situations otherwise not experienced.

MORE READING = BETTER STUDENT OUTCOMES

Students who read more have better comprehension and fluency, better vocabulary development, better test scores across the curriculum, and better income and employment in adulthood.

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS SUPPORT READING

- Model the love of reading
- Celebrate reading & books through programs, promotions & awards
- Provide students the skills they need to choose the right book
- Expose students to a large volume and a wide variety of books
- Provide access to a variety of book formats (i.e. print, digital, Braille)
- Select, organize, and maintain a library collection that supports the interests and needs of the local school community
- Provide books and instruction for bibliotherapy to enhance social and emotional learning

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY

library.sd.gov

- Bridges, L. (2018). The Joy & Power of Reading: A Summary of Research and Expert Opinion. [Compendium]. *Scholastic.* Online at http://bit.ly/JoyReading
- Schmidt, M. (2020). How Reading Fiction Increases Empathy and Encourages Understanding. *Discover Magazine.* Online at http://bit.ly/DiscoverEmpathy
- School Library Book Access & Distance Learning: A Critical Connection. *Oregon Association of School Libraries.* Online at https:// bit.ly/OASLschlibbookaccess