What is the School Achievement Through Libraries Award Program?

SDSL's School Achievement Through Libraries (SATL) is an award program with a dual purpose:

1. To recognize outstanding school library programs and school library professionals.
2. To provide guidance in school librarianship best practices.

School libraries make a powerful difference in student achievement and benefit every learner in the school community. Highly effective school libraries support the whole child by encouraging reading for academic and personal growth; by supporting the development of research strategies to create and share new knowledge; by teaching ethical participation in an interconnected world; and by promoting a school culture of reading and lifelong learning.

It is the mission of the school library to:

● provide all learners a 21st century collaborative program for learning and teaching.
● provide a place for both a physical and virtual learning environment.
● provide access to a highly qualified professional for leadership in creating, promoting, and sustaining the program and place.

The South Dakota State Library, a division of the SD Department of Education, formally and annually recognizes schools with libraries that demonstrate accomplished and exemplary practice in each of the three pillars of school librarianship: Program, Place, and Professional.

The award program is self-paced and requirements may be fulfilled at any time. Applicants who fulfill all requirements by July 1 will be recognized with award announcements at the beginning of the school year and at an annual conference held in the fall. Award status is valid for a three-year period.

Applicants will fulfill a task checklist via our SATL Program in Canvas.

The Professional

Mission: To provide all learners access to a highly qualified professional for leadership to advance the program and the place.

The "Professional" refers to the librarian/library staff responsible for curating resources, providing guidance, and supporting students' academic and personal development. Highly skilled and knowledgeable professionals are essential for connecting students with the right resources, assisting with research projects, and promoting a love for reading. They serve as mentors and educators, helping students become critical thinkers, effective communicators, and responsible digital citizens. A dedicated and passionate professional in the library can also collaborate with teachers to integrate information literacy and other skills into the curriculum.

- ☐ **Evidence #1: Course Completion (ONE of the following)**
  - ○ Upload documentation of ExCITE! 2024 Library Methods course completion.
  - ○ Upload diploma/certificate from a library science degree program.
  - ○ Enroll in and successfully complete the "School Library 101: Creating an Impactful School Library" online, on-demand course through the South Dakota State Library.
- ☐ **Evidence #2: Annual Report**
  - ○ Provide a copy of your most recent annual report (this should be the most current completed school year's report).
- ☐ **Evidence #3: Impact & Improvement Meeting**
  - ○ Provide documentation (using a provided worksheet) of a meeting with school administration to discuss the library.
- ☐ **Evidence #4**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "professional" (suggestions are provided).
- ☐ **Evidence #5**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "professional" (suggestions are provided).

The Program

Mission: To provide all learners with a collaborative program for teaching and learning.

The "Program" refers to the activities, initiatives, and services offered by the school library to enhance students' learning experiences. A robust library program goes beyond just providing access to books and extends to activities such as book clubs, author visits, literacy workshops, and technology integration. These programs not only encourage students to develop strong reading habits but also equip them with critical research and information literacy skills. Additionally, library program often promote a sense of community and belonging among students, fostering a culture of lifelong learning and curiosity.

- ☐ **Evidence #1: Collection Development Policy**
  - ○ Provide a copy of your current board-approved Collection Development policy.
- ☐ **Evidence #2: Mission Statement**
  - ○ Provide your school library mission statement with goals/objectives and additional details.
- ☐ **Evidence #3**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "program" (suggestions are provided).
- ☐ **Evidence #4**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "program" (suggestions are provided).
- ☐ **Evidence #5**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "program" (suggestions are provided).

The Place

Mission: To provide all learners with quality physical and virtual learning environments.

The "Place", which refers to the environment of a school library, plays a crucial role in fostering a love for learning and reading among students. It serves as a welcoming and inspiring space where students can explore a world of knowledge. The design and layout of the library can significantly impact a student's educational experience. A well-organized and aesthetically pleasing library provides a comfortable and conducive setting for students to study, read, research, and collaborate. The place should be filled with a variety of materials, creating an environment where curiosity is nurtured, imagination is sparked, and academic growth is supported.

- ☐ **Evidence #1: Site Visit**
  - ○ Upload documentation of a site visit (virtual or in-person) with the SDSL School Library Coordinator.
- ☐ **Evidence #2**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "place" (suggestions are provided).
- ☐ **Evidence #3**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "place" (suggestions are provided).
- ☐ **Evidence #4**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "place" (suggestions are provided).
- ☐ **Evidence #5**
  - ○ Provide ONE solid piece of evidence that showcases how your school library meets or exceeds the characteristics of a highly effective school library "place" (suggestions are provided).