

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY BACK-TO-SCHOOL GUIDE

With August comes the excitement of going back to school. Discover how SDSL School Library Services can offer you the support and services you need to have your best year ever!

The South Dakota State Library (SDSL) provides leadership for innovation and excellence in libraries and services to state government. SDSL is a division of the SD Department of Education. SDSL School Library Services seeks to provide guidance, advocacy, tools, and professional development for school library staff across South Dakota. We offer online and hybrid coursework specifically for school librarians, paraprofessionals, and other types of educators working collaboratively with the school library.

Professional Development

SDSL's School Library Services provides online and in-person training for school librarians and other education professionals. Check out the most current listing of offerings at:

<https://library.sd.gov/LIB/SLC/index.aspx>

School Library Guides

From collection development to genrefication to reader advisory, school librarians have a unique set of skills to learn and manage. SDSL School Library Services has created numerous school library specific guides to help with this task. New guides are added monthly to the School Library Resources section of the School Library Services page, so be sure to bookmark:

<https://library.sd.gov/LIB/SLC/index.aspx>

Tutorials

SDSL's Niche Academy offers tutorials on library staff training and on how to use SDSL's electronic resources. Within Niche Academy, you will also find The School Library Scoop with Scottie. These are short video tutorials (less than five minutes) on school library services, technology tips and trends, SDSL resources, and so much more! Find them here: <https://library.sd.gov/LIB/ERD/niche.aspx>

Standards and Guidelines

This section of SDSL's School Library Services page has links to: The SD School Library Standards, The 3 Pillars of Effective School Libraries, and more! Check them out in the Standards and Guidelines section here: <https://library.sd.gov/LIB/SLC/index.aspx>

Advocacy Tools

Every year, South Dakota public school districts, non-public school systems, tribal/BIE (Bureau of Indian Education) schools and state special schools are surveyed about their libraries. That data is compiled into the annual [Facts & Stats](#) infographic (formerly Data Digest). The data can also be viewed in these statistical and comparative reports:

[SLS 2023-34 INFOGRAPHIC STATISTICAL REPORT](#) – Infographic report for library staff to share their own school or district SLS statistics.

[SLS 2023-24 COMPARE BY SCHOOL](#) – Table report for comparing some of the basic service statistics across up to three schools or districts.

[SLS 2023-24 TOPICAL COMPARISON REPORTS](#) – A set of reports for comparing library services by topic.

Electronic Resources

The South Dakota State Library provides a variety of general and subject-based online databases with statewide access. A complete listing of these databases containing additional information such as training and marketing materials can be found here: <https://library.sd.gov/LIB/ERD/index.aspx>

For up-to-date information throughout the year, (in addition to bookmarking the [School Library Services](#) page of the SDSL website), please also mark the [SDSL School Library Services Guide](#) as a favorite!

BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST



Introduce yourself to new staff in person and by email.

Reach out to staff in a staff meeting and/or by email. Communicate what you do and what you can do for them. Share library resources, programming, Makerspace info., schedule changes, & updates.

Touch base with your administrator(s).

Make your Back-to-School newsletter with vital resources like SDSL K-12 free databases, the School Library Standards, new books, and resources for school-specific programming/initiatives.

Update your virtual library/website and any curation lists.

Update your management/OPAC system.

Schedule orientation for new students or new-to-the-school classes.

Organize a yearly outline with celebrations, programs, curricular events, author visits, book fairs, testing, etc.

Create and share any booking/check-out calendars for media carts, labs, library times, etc.

Research and create bulletin boards.

Make a back-to-school book display with new books, books about beginnings, adventure, courage, self-esteem, etc.

Update any signage.

Print and post the School Library Standards.

Post your award badge if you're a recent awardee of the 21st Century Library Award.

Display the School Library Data Digest poster. Newest edition coming to you in September!

Post your library mission statement in your physical library and on your virtual library.

Subscribe to the School Library Listserv for deadlines, current events, and email communication for SD school library staff.

Bookmark the SDSL School Libraries page on the SDSL site.

Bookmark the SDSL K-12 databases page.

Create a welcoming library for your students.