

The School Library Monthly Update



SATL AWARDEES ANNOUNCED!

The South Dakota State Library is proud to announce the 2025-2028 recipients of the School Achievement Through Libraries (SATL) Award. This award honors school libraries that demonstrate excellence in the areas of instruction, leadership, and library programming. Formerly known as the 21st Century School Library Award, SATL recognizes schools that are leading the way in creating effective, impactful library programs that support student learning.

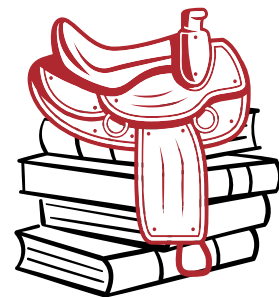
Congratulations to this year's recipients, and thank you for raising the bar for school libraries across South Dakota!

See more on page 2.

**EVERY MONTH, WE WILL HIGHLIGHT
A SATL AWARD RECIPIENT!**

TO-DO

- ✓ **Share a story!** Scottie is seeking heartwarming school library stories for upcoming episodes of [The School Library Pulse](#) mini-cast.
- ✓ Clean out your inbox so you can continue getting emails from SDSL School Library Services throughout the summer!



**SD SATL
AWARD**
SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT
THROUGH LIBRARIES

School Achievement Through Libraries is an award program with a dual purpose:

- To recognize outstanding school library programs and school library professionals.
- 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 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.



2025–2028 SATL AWARD RECIPIENTS



Aberdeen Central High School Library:

School Librarian Mikayla Arechigo; Administrator Dr. Jason Uttermark

Howard Elementary School Library:

School Librarian Sarah Feldhaus; Administrator Stephen Vigliotti

Madison Middle/High School Library:

School Librarian Amanda Hall; Administrators Adam Shaw and Cotton Koch

Menno Public School Library:

School Librarian Lois Wollman; Administrator Nadia Mudder

Sioux Falls George McGovern Middle School Library:

School Librarian Sherri Wolles; Administrators Tim Koehler, Richie Hutchinson, and Sarah Muller

Sioux Falls Jefferson High School Library:

School Librarian Emelia Gulck; Administrator Daniel Conrad

Sioux Falls John Harris Elementary School Library:

School Librarian Lindsey Rohde; Administrator Ryan DeGraff

Sioux Falls Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School Library:

School Librarian Jennifer Egstad; Administrator Dr. Tracy Vik

Sioux Falls Terry Redlin Elementary School Library:

School Librarian Stefanie Hage; Administrator Kersten Dobberpuhl

St. Joseph's Indian School Library:

School Librarian Claire Nehring; Administrators Sharmel Olsen, Beth Schumacher, and Jennie Schilling



Aberdeen Central High School Library



Librarian: Mikayla Arechigo



This month, we are proud to spotlight SATL awardee Mikayla Arechigo, librarian at Aberdeen Central High School. Mikayla's innovative and student-centered approach to teaching exemplifies best practices in school librarianship. From co-teaching a nonfiction reading unit with 10th-grade Language Arts to transforming her library into a hub of excitement with the annual "Book Madness" tournament, Mikayla fosters a vibrant culture of reading and learning. Her teaching practices emphasize student voice and choice, thoughtful planning, and reflective improvement, while her engaging displays, tech integration, and collaborative efforts elevate the library as a dynamic space for the entire school community.

Best Practice in Action: Teaching & Learning

Mikayla planned and co-taught a nonfiction reading unit that introduced students to the Dewey Decimal System, library layout, and a book tasting experience. She tailored resources based on student interest and collaborated with classroom teachers to ensure cross-curricular alignment.

Book Madness: Reading Gets Competitive!

Every March, Mikayla hosts Book Madness, a 7-week bracket-style tournament featuring award-winning books. Students and staff vote weekly, track rankings, and celebrate both literature and school pride. Trophies from nearly a century of school history accompany the live bracket display!

Technology Tools in Use

Instructional tech is seamlessly integrated into Mikayla's program. Students use Google Forms, Smore, and collaborative documents throughout the nonfiction unit. She also teaches digital literacy lessons on databases, SORA, the online catalog, and Chromebook usage.

Supporting All Learners

The Aberdeen Central High School library collection spans multiple formats and reading levels. Mikayla uses her online catalog, interlibrary loan, and SD Share-It to expand access. She maintains Google Classrooms for both teachers and students to share resources, updates, and programming.