

SOUTH DAKOTA FACTS & STATS SCHOOL LIBRARIES

SCHOOL YEAR
2025-26



Data for the 2026 South Dakota School Libraries Facts & Stats comes from the South Dakota School Library Survey held in 2026.



ABOUT THE

2026 School Libraries Facts & Stats

EACH YEAR, SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICTS, NON-PUBLIC SYSTEMS, TRIBAL/BIE SCHOOLS, AND STATE SPECIAL SCHOOLS ARE SURVEYED ABOUT THEIR LIBRARIES. THIS SUMMARY REFLECTS DATA FROM 270 SCHOOL LIBRARIES (APPROXIMATELY 71% RESPONSE RATE).

MANY THANKS TO THE DEDICATED LIBRARIANS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR TIME TO THIS EFFORT.

2025-26 SCHOOL LIBRARY FACTS

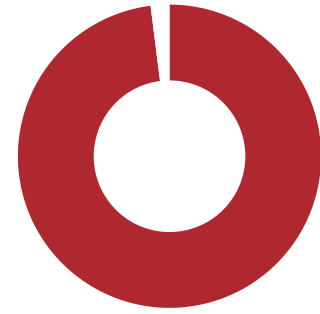
Through Program, Place, and Professional, school libraries make a powerful difference in student achievement.



91%

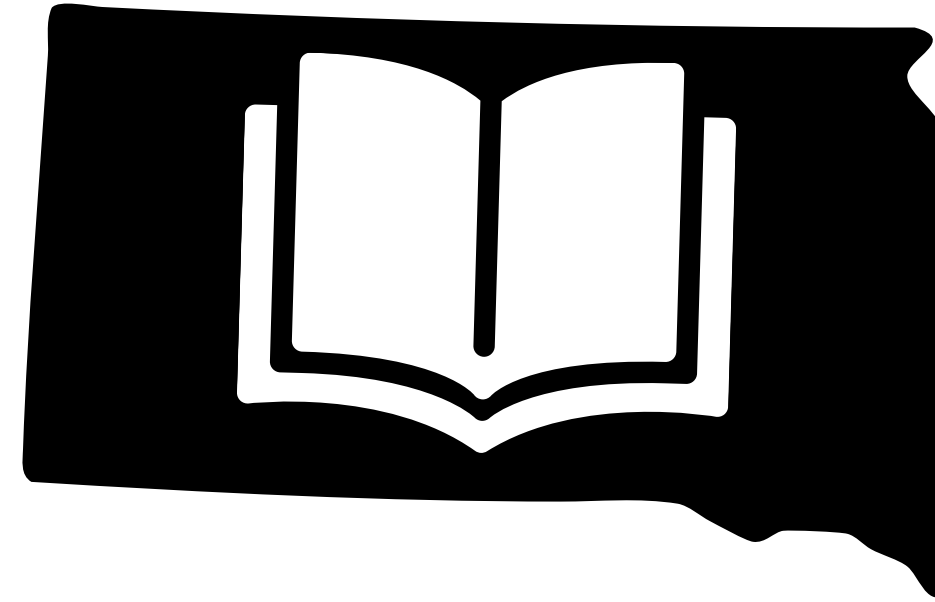
DISTRICTS/SYSTEMS
IN SOUTH DAKOTA
HAVE A SCHOOL LIBRARY

* DATA FROM 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



98%

STUDENTS
ATTEND A DISTRICT WITH AT
LEAST ONE SCHOOL LIBRARY



1 ITEM

PER STUDENT ADDED TO
LIBRARY COLLECTIONS



\$19.79

SPENT ON NEW MATERIALS
PER STUDENT



4,276

CLASSES VISITED SCHOOL
LIBRARIES EVERY WEEK



24 ITEMS

CHECKED OUT
PER STUDENT



81% OF STUDENTS

CHECKED OUT AT LEAST ONE
BOOK DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR



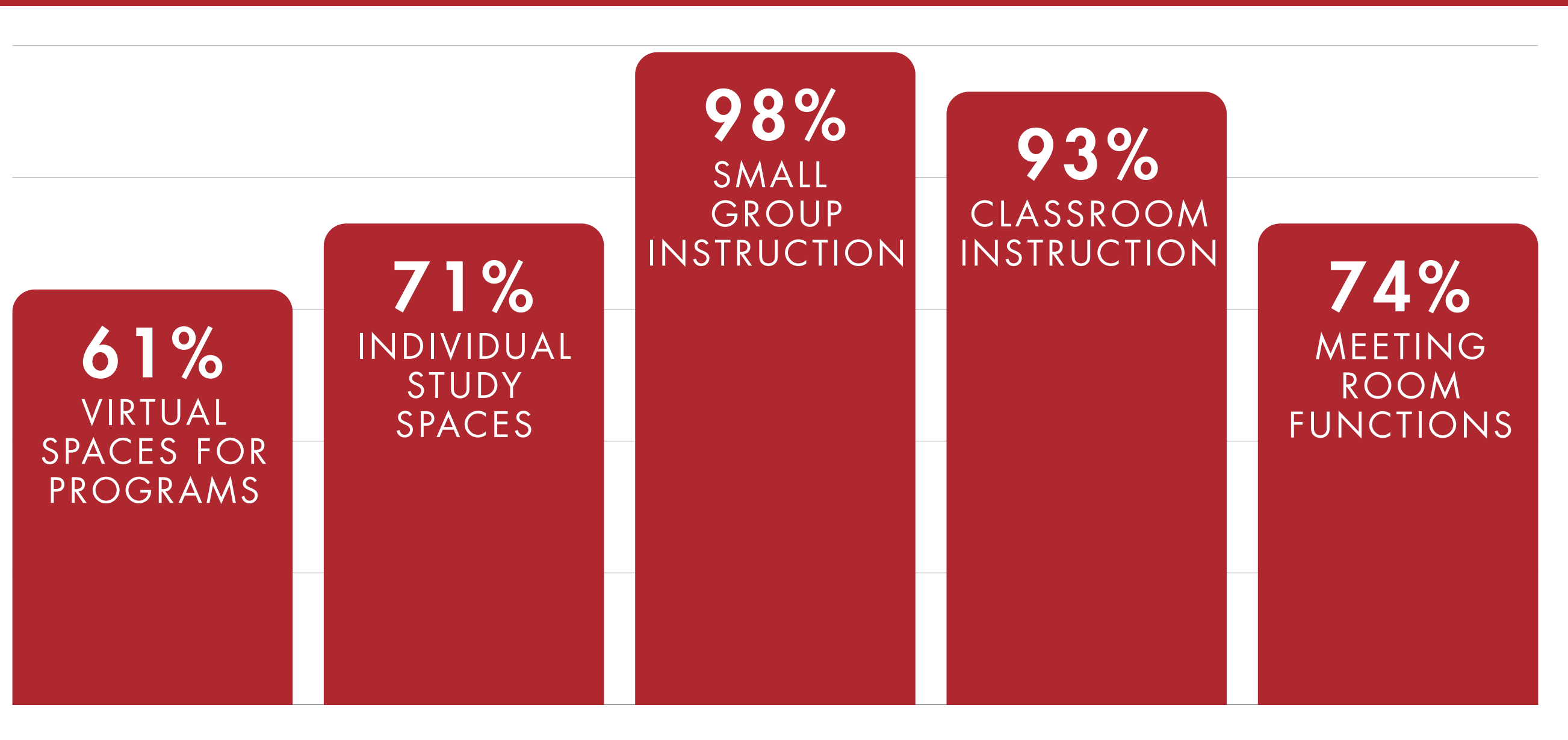
5746 STUDENTS

VISITED SCHOOL LIBRARIES
INDEPENDENTLY EVERY DAY



THE PLACE

School libraries in South Dakota incorporate spaces that accommodate various learning styles and educational needs.



THE PLACE

School libraries in South Dakota are classrooms for literacy instruction and reading promotion.

**LIBRARY CLASSES
ARE OFFERED:**

35% DAILY

36% WEEKLY

21% OCCASIONALLY/ON-DEMAND

8% NEVER



THE PROGRAM

School libraries provide programs and activities that link literacy and student interests.



82% CREATE THEMATIC DISPLAYS AND BULLETIN BOARDS

76% PROMOTE LOCAL, STATE, AND NATIONAL READING PROGRAMS

61% HAVE ELL, SPED, AND MULTICULTURAL RESOURCES

54% HOST BOOK FAIRS

49% PARTNER WITH PUBLIC LIBRARY

44% HAVE MAKERSPACES AND STEM SUPPLIES

34% FACILITATE BOOK & SPECIAL INTEREST CLUBS

18% AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS



THE PROGRAM

School libraries use a variety of resources for instruction.



94% BOOKS



64% VIDEOS



**52% ONLINE
LEARNING TOOLS**



**63% SDSL
E-RESOURCES**



**46% OTHER
E-RESOURCES**



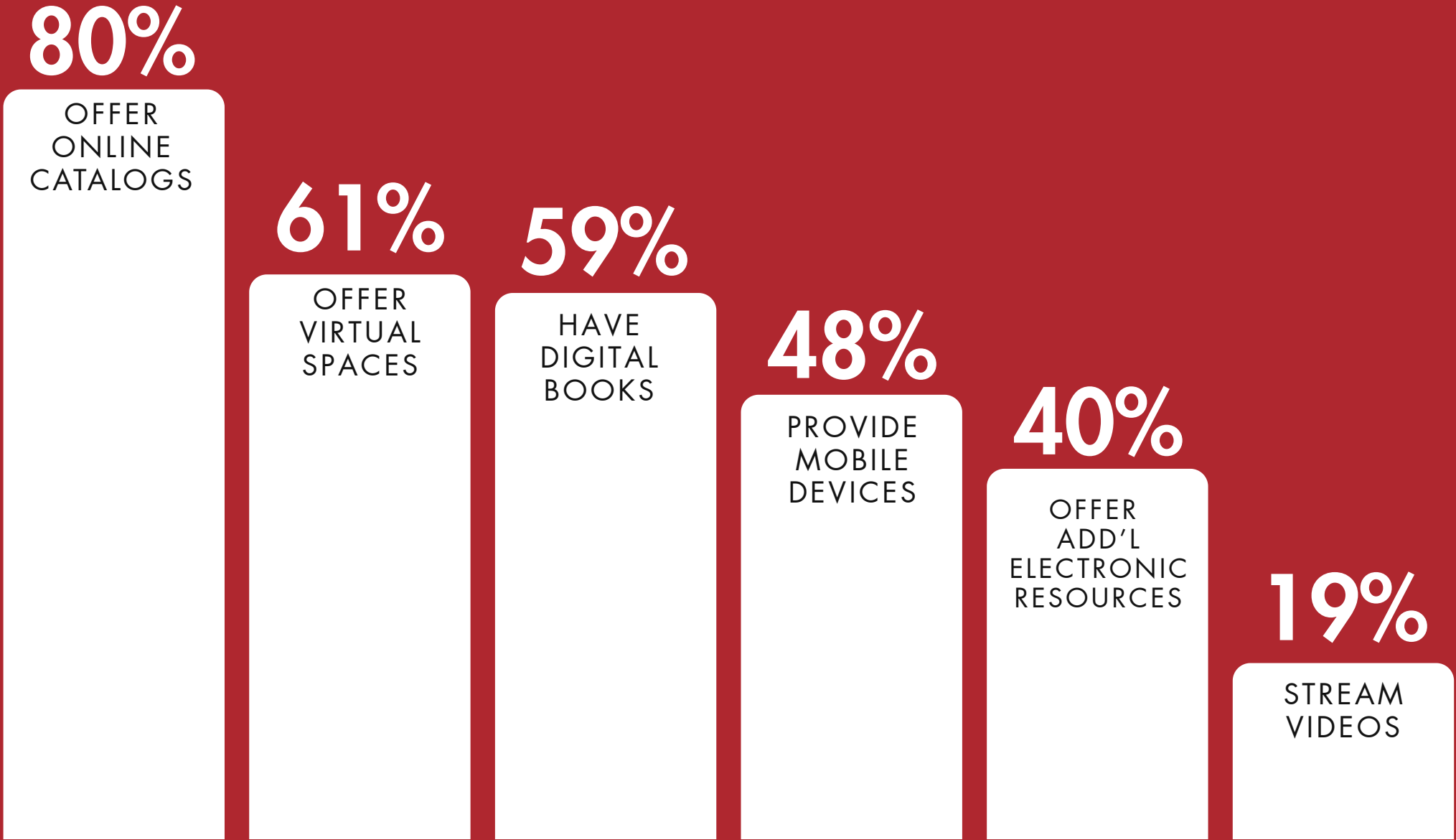
47% E-BOOKS



**41% MAKERSPACE
TOOLS**

SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROVIDE DIGITAL RESOURCES

School libraries provide digital access to educational resources to support learners.



100% HAVE ACCESS TO RESEARCH DATABASES PROVIDED BY THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LIBRARY

60% HAVE STAFF WHO PROVIDE INSTRUCTION TO TEACHERS & STUDENTS ON USING SDSL ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

A white callout box with a black border and a tail pointing towards the bottom right. It contains two lines of text, each with a percentage and a description of a service provided by school libraries.

THE PROFESSIONAL

School librarians curate resources, provide guidance, and support student and staff development.



79% COLLABORATE & TEACH WITH CLASSROOM TEACHERS

83% TEACH WITH SD SCHOOL LIBRARY STANDARDS

83% UTILIZE SD SCHOOL LIBRARY GUIDELINES

64% COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

60% PARTICIPATE IN PD ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE SD STATE LIBRARY

60% PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON USING SDSL ELECTRONIC RESOURCES



THE PROFESSIONAL



School librarians have a variety of educational backgrounds.

LIBRARIANS: 28%

ARE CERTIFIED TEACHER-LIBRARIANS WITH A LIBRARY ENDORSEMENT

TEACHERS: 10%

ARE CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN THE LIBRARY WITHOUT A LIBRARY ENDORSEMENT

**7% PAID AS CERTIFIED STAFF AND 3% PAID AS CLASSIFIED STAFF*

PARAPROFESSIONALS: 54%

ARE LIBRARIANS WITH NO TEACHING CERTIFICATE AND NO LIBRARY ENDORSEMENT

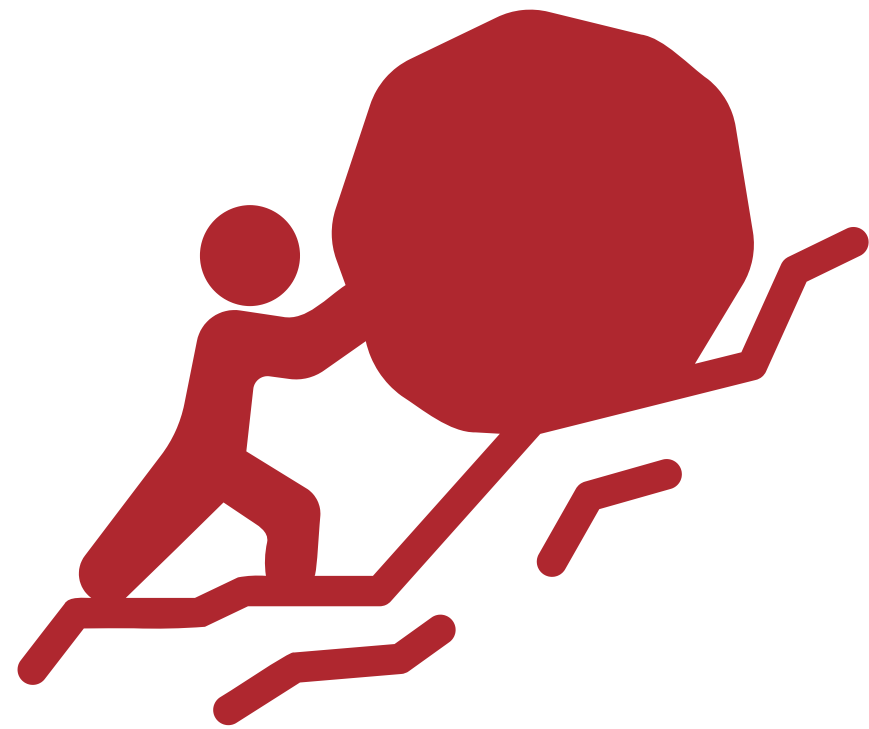
OTHER: 8%

ARE LIBRARIANS WITH OTHER EDUCATIONAL CREDENTIALS SUCH AS MLS, ETC.



THE PROFESSIONAL

SD school librarians face a variety of challenges in providing instruction in the library.



63%

TIME CONSTRAINTS

30%

INSUFFICIENT RESOURCES

30%

LACK OF COLLABORATION

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH LIBRARIES AWARD

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

2026 - 2029

ALCESTER-HUDSON
Elementary School Library
Nola Conner

ALCESTER-HUDSON
Junior High/HS Library
Nola Conner

CUSTER
Elementary School Library
Doris Ann Mertz

CUSTER
High School Library
Doris Ann Mertz

DAKOTA VALLEY UPPER
Elementary School Library
Erin Nilges

HARRISBURG FREEDOM
Elementary School Library
Tyler Muth

HARRISBURG
High School Library
Eve Langerock

HARRISBURG JOURNEY
Elementary School Library
Jennifer rinken

HERMOSA
Elementary School Library
Doris Ann Mertz

PIERRE TF RIGGS
High School Library
Pamela Kringel

SIOUX FALLS PATRICK HENRY
Middle School Library
Wendy Nelson

SIOUX FALLS RF PETTIGREW
Elementary School Library
Nicole Ulvestad

TRI-VALLEY COLTON
Elementary School Library
Kay Dahl

TRI-VALLEY CROOKS
Elementary School Library
Kay Dahl

TRI-VALLEY
High School Library
Kay Dahl

TRI-VALLEY
Middle School Library
Kay Dahl



SD SATL AWARD

MORE Information

Explore more interactive statistical reports and infographics based on the 2025-26 School library survey statistics.

library.sd.gov/LIB/SLC/survey.aspx