

2025 SOUTH DAKOTA
SCHOOL LIBRARIES

FACTS & STATS



Data for the 2025 South Dakota School Libraries Facts & Stats comes from the South Dakota School Library Survey held in 2025.

2024-25 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*



98%

STUDENTS
ATTEND A DISTRICT WITH AT
LEAST ONE SCHOOL LIBRARY*

*DATA FROM 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR



1 ITEM

PER STUDENT ADDED TO
LIBRARY COLLECTIONS



\$14.50

SPENT ON NEW MATERIALS
PER STUDENT



27 ITEMS

CHECKED OUT
PER STUDENT



82% OF STUDENTS

CHECKED OUT AT LEAST ONE
BOOK DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR



4,450

CLASSES VISITED SCHOOL
LIBRARIES EVERY WEEK

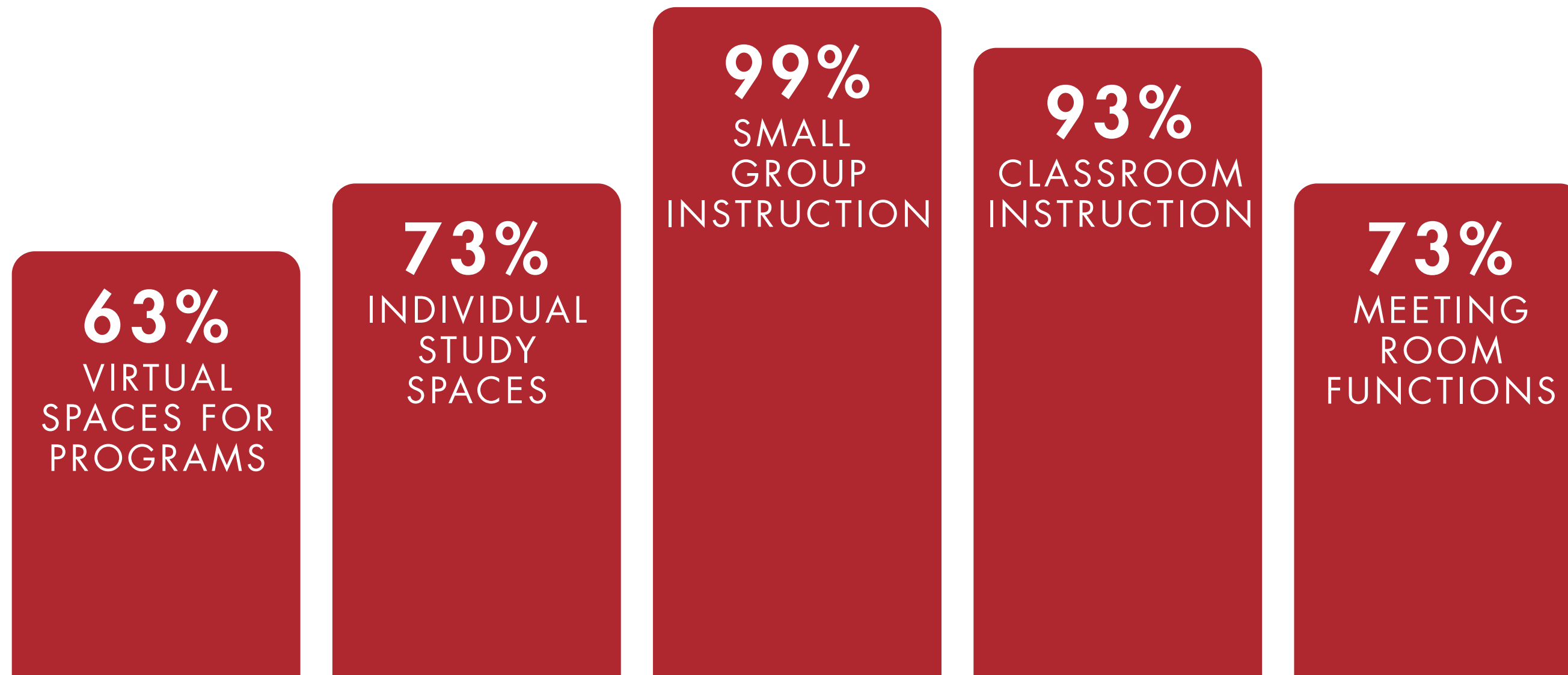


7,000 STUDENTS

VISITED SCHOOL LIBRARIES
INDEPENDENTLY EVERY DAY

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: THE PLACE

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



SCHOOL LIBRARIES: THE PLACE

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



LIBRARY CLASSES ARE OFFERED:

39% DAILY

31% WEEKLY

20% OCCASIONALLY/ON-DEMAND

10% NEVER

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: THE PROGRAM

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

78%

THEMATIC DISPLAYS
AND BULLETIN
BOARDS

71%

LOCAL, STATE, AND
NATIONAL READING
PROMO PROGRAMS

60%

ELL, SPED, AND
MULTICULTURAL
RESOURCES

55%

BOOK
FAIRS

50%

PARTNER WITH
PUBLIC LIBRARY

42%

MAKERSPACES
AND STEM

30%

BOOK & SPECIAL
INTEREST CLUBS

20%

AFTERSCHOOL
PROGRAMS

19%

AUTHOR/ARTIST
PROGRAMS

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: THE PROGRAM

School libraries use a variety of resources for instruction.



93% BOOKS



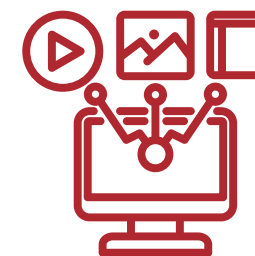
67% VIDEOS



**51% ONLINE
LEARNING TOOLS**



**60% SDSL
E-RESOURCES**



**46% OTHER
E-RESOURCES**



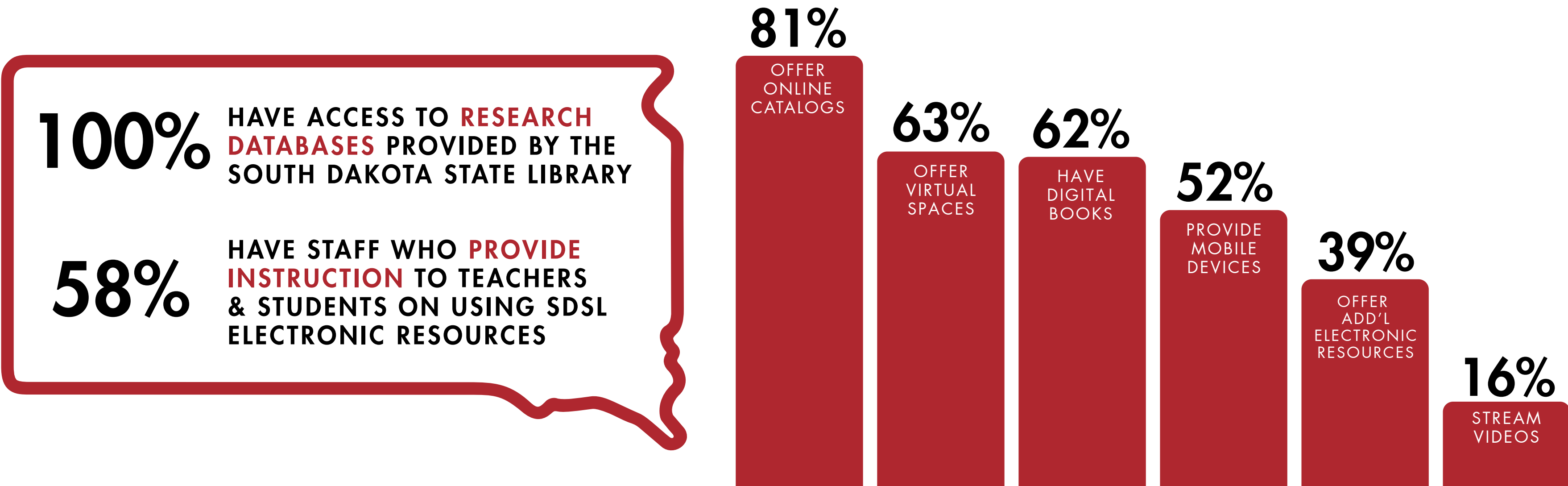
52% E-BOOKS



**41% MAKERSPACE
TOOLS**

SCHOOL LIBRARIES PROVIDE DIGITAL RESOURCES

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



SCHOOL LIBRARIES: THE PROFESSIONAL

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

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

✓ INSTRUCT

✓ COLLABORATE

✓ COMMUNICATE

83% COLLABORATE & TEACH WITH CLASSROOM TEACHERS

83% TEACH WITH SD SCHOOL LIBRARY STANDARDS

82% UTILIZE SD SCHOOL LIBRARY GUIDELINES

64% COLLABORATE WITH LOCAL PUBLIC LIBRARY

61% PARTICIPATE IN PD ACTIVITIES OFFERED BY THE SD STATE LIBRARY

58% PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON USING SDSL ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

SCHOOL LIBRARIANS ARE TEACHERS

School librarians are educators, mentors, collaborators, and leaders.



89%
CREATE
READING
PROMOTION



87%
TEACH
LIBRARY
SKILLS



72%
TEACH
INFORMATION
LITERACY



70%
TEACH
RESEARCH
SKILLS



66%
TEACH
TEXTUAL
LITERACY



64%
CO-TEACH
LESSONS WITH
TEACHERS



56%
TEACH
TECHNOLOGY
SKILLS



53%
TEACH
CIVIC & ETHICAL
LITERACY



52%
TEACH
DIGITAL
CITIZENSHIP



49%
TEACH
MEDIA
LITERACY



43%
TEACH
STEAM/STEM
LESSONS



41%
TEACH
CONTENT
CREATION

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: THE PROFESSIONAL

School librarians have a variety of educational backgrounds.



LIBRARIANS: 27%
ARE CERTIFIED TEACHER-LIBRARIANS
WITH A LIBRARY ENDORSEMENT

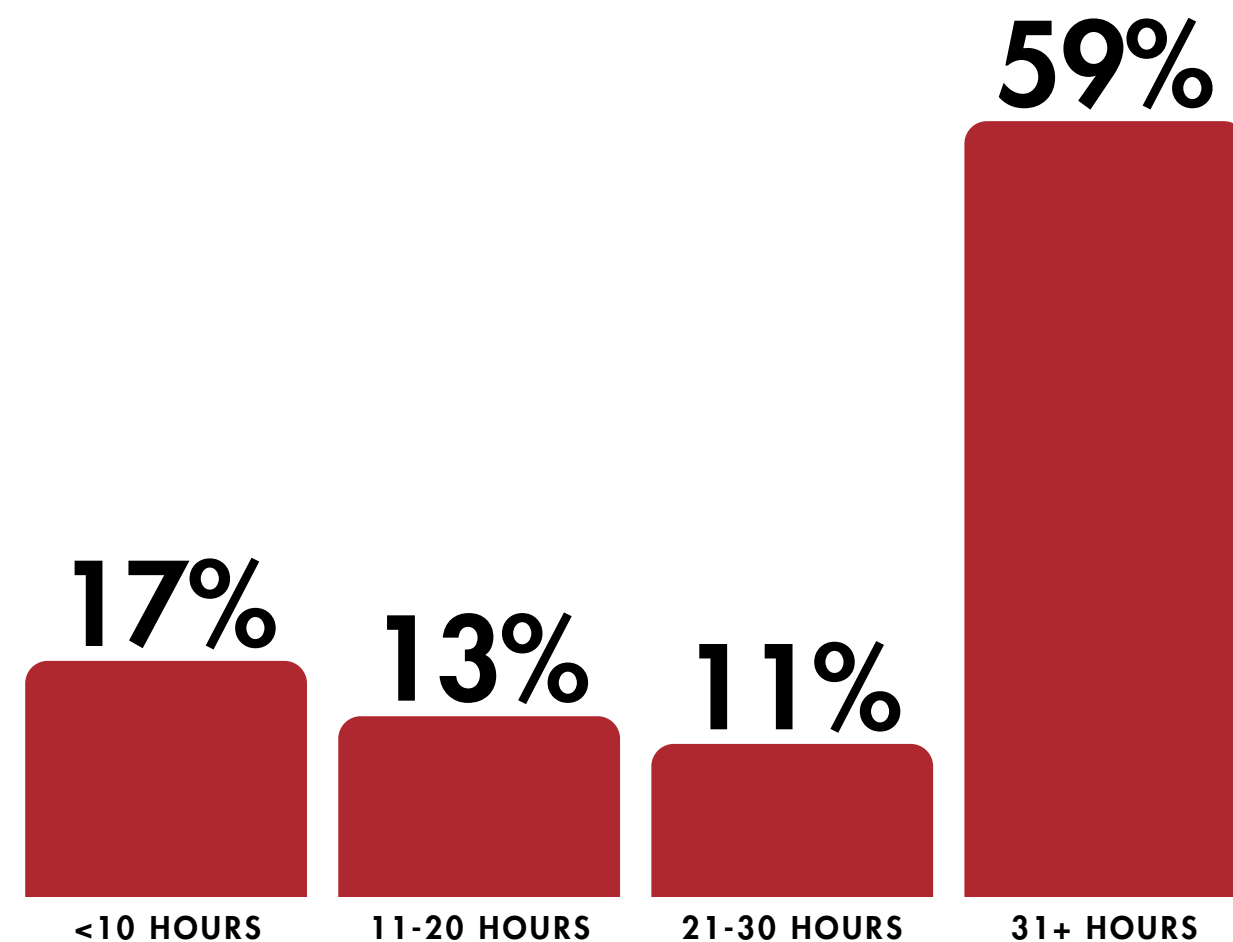
TEACHERS: 12%
ARE CERTIFIED TEACHERS IN THE LIBRARY
WITHOUT A LIBRARY ENDORSEMENT

PARAPROFESSIONALS: 61%
ARE LIBRARIANS WITH NO TEACHING
CERTIFICATE AND NO LIBRARY ENDORSEMENT

SCHOOL LIBRARIES: THE PROFESSIONAL

School districts in SD vary in how they employ school librarians.

HEAD LIBRARIANS WORK VARYING HOURS IN THEIR SCHOOL LIBRARIES:



43% HAVE ADDITIONAL HELP IN THE LIBRARY
(PARAPROFESSIONAL, EDUCATION ASSISTANT, TEACHING ASSISTANT)

88% LIBRARIANS WORK IN 1 LIBRARY

12% LIBRARIANS WORK IN 2+ LIBRARIES

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.

2025 - 2028



SD SATL AWARD

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT
THROUGH LIBRARIES



library.sd.gov

ABERDEEN CENTRAL
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
MIKAYLA ARECHIGO

HOWARD
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
SARAH FELDHAUS

MADISON
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
AMANDA HALL

MENNO
SCHOOL LIBRARY
LOIS WOLLMAN

SIOUX FALLS GEORGE MCGOVERN
MIDDLE SCHOOL LIBRARY
SHERRI WOLLES

SIOUX FALLS JEFFERSON
HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY
EMELIA GULCK

SIOUX FALLS JOHN HARRIS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
LINDSEY ROHDE

SIOUX FALLS SONIA SOTOMAYOR
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
JENNIFER EGSTAD

SIOUX FALLS TERRY REDLIN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
STEFANIE HAGE

ST. JOSEPH'S INDIAN SCHOOL
LIBRARY
CLAIRE NEHRING

South Dakota School Libraries Facts & Stats 2025: Data from South Dakota School Libraries Survey 2024-25

ABOUT THE 2025 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 283 school libraries (approximately 75% response rate).

Many thanks to the dedicated librarians and administrators who contributed their time to this effort.