School librarians lead the way in digital learning and literacies by teaching and providing professional development in their school communities and districts.


The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) uses the American Association of School Librarians’ (AASL) definition of an Effective School Library in its wording: “As a fundamental component of college, career, and community readiness, the effective school library program:”

**STAFFING**

86% SCHOOLS HAVE A CERTIFIED LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

82% SCHOOLS HAVE A FULL-TIME CERTIFIED SLMS

- Number of library media staff seeking SLMS certification: 97
- Libraries with dedicated support staff: 45%

**INSTRUCTION**

**LEADER**

Average share of time spent in LEADERSHIP roles: 8%

86% of schools have a certified library media specialist

82% of schools have a full-time certified SLMS

**TEACHER**

Average share of time spent in TEACHING roles: 44%

Hours spent per week collaboratively planning instruction: 17

**DIGITAL LEARNING**

In addition to meeting the hallmarks for an effective school library, school librarians ensure that the library stands as a common space to support innovation and creativity.

“...HAS AN SLMS THAT ‘IS AN INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER AND TEACHER’, ”

**MORE THAN ONCE PER WEEK**, the SLMS helps students:

- Apply critical thinking skills
- Discover, innovate and create
- Use a variety of sources to gather information
- Use technology to organize and share information
- Use diverse sources in varying formats
- Engage in collaborative learning groups
- Understand the ethical use of information, technology, and media
- Evaluate the credibility of information sources

**READING INCENTIVES**

“...HAS AN SLMS THAT ‘SUPPORTS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND ELEVATES THE LITERACY EXPERIENCE THROUGH GUIDANCE AND MOTIVATIONAL READING INITIATIVES’, ”

**INNOVATION & CREATIVITY**

In addition to meeting the hallmarks for an effective school library, school librarians ensure that the library stands as a common space to support innovation and creativity.

53% LIBRARIES HAVE A MAKERSPACE

74% LIBRARIES INCORPORATE INNOVATIVE ACTIVITIES/EVENTS INTO THE LIBRARY PROGRAM

Sources: