Research has proven that:

- As the staffing, collections and funding of school library programs incrementally increase reading related to standardized reading test scores at elementary, middle, and high school levels.
- Student access to the school library—measured by the number of hours the library is open—is significantly and provides reading support results in higher student reading achievement.
- The presence of a certified/licensed librarian who teaches students how to find and use information also rises.

According to the American Association of School Librarians, students who are information literate can:

- Pursue personal and aesthetic growth.
- Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society; and
- Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge; and
- Synthesize, evaluate, and communicate information; and
- Understand and apply the skills of the information literate individual to gain knowledge and wisdom for personal and professional life; and
- Pursue in-depth study and graduate and go on to post secondary education.

Parents are involved in their children's school and education, their children do much better in school. Specifically, "students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Attend school regularly;
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits;
- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs;
- Say computers in the school library help improve their overall academic work; and
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and
- Be more likely to graduate and go on to post secondary education.

In a survey of over 13,000 Ohio students, over 99 percent of students in grades 3 through 12 believe school libraries and their services help them become better learners. Over 88 percent say the school library helps them get better grades; almost 75 percent say it helps with homework, and over 92 percent say computers in the school library help improve their overall academic work.

In a study of 8th grade students in Philadelphia, researchers found that students who had access to books outside of school were more likely to have a positive attitude towards reading, to enjoy reading, and to have a higher reading achievement than those who did not have access to books outside of school. These results are consistent with previous research showing that access to books outside of school is associated with higher reading achievement.

All parents want their children to succeed in school and get a good education to prepare them for life and work in the 21st-century. Research tells us that when parents are involved in their children's school and education, their children do much better in school. Specifically, "students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Attend school regularly;
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- Be more likely to graduate and go on to post secondary education.

The future of our children will depend on the choices we make today. All parents want their children to succeed in school and get a good education to prepare them for life and work in the 21st-century. Research tells us that when parents are involved in their children's school and education, their children do much better in school. Specifically, "students with involved parents are more likely to:

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- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and
- Be more likely to graduate and go on to post secondary education.

In order to prepare our children for the future, we need to provide them with the necessary tools, instruction, and resources to achieve—now and in the future. Working together, parents, school administrators, and librarians can develop a top-notch school library program that is the hub of learning in the school to give our children the skills they will need to succeed in the 21st-century. Research tells us that when parents are involved in their children's school and education, their children do much better in school. Specifically, "students with involved parents are more likely to:

- Attend school regularly;
- Be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits;
- Earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs;
- Say computers in the school library help improve their overall academic work; and
- Have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school; and
- Be more likely to graduate and go on to post secondary education.

The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has developed a set of guidelines called the Standards for the 21st-Century Learner and Empowering Learners: Guidelines for School Library Programs. These guidelines are intended to provide a framework for school libraries to improve the learning environment and support the achievement of students. The guidelines include five core principles:

1. Learning through Information: School libraries provide access to information and ideas to empower learners in their development as active, critical, and creative participants in a diverse and rapidly changing society.
2. Learning through Communication: School libraries provide tools for effective communication through the creation, presentation, and sharing of ideas and information.
3. Learning through Collaboration: School libraries provide resources and support for collaboration and community participation.
4. Learning through Inquiry: School libraries provide opportunities for learners to engage in inquiry and problem-solving activities.
5. Learning about Ourselves and Others: School libraries provide opportunities for learners to develop an understanding of themselves and others through the exploration of cultural, historical, and current events.

Using national school library guidelines as a foundation, this brochure outlines ideas effectively.
“In a survey of over 13,000 Ohio students, over 99 percent of students in grades 3 through 12 believe school libraries and their services help them become better learners. Over 88 percent say the school library helps them get better grades; almost 75 percent say it helps with homework, and over 92 percent say computers in the school library help improve their overall academic work.”


“According to the American Association of School Librarians, students who are information literate can:

+ Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge;
+ Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge;
+ Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society; and
+ Pursue personal and aesthetic growth.”

These skills will make your child or teen a lifelong learner.


“Strong school library programs are essential to create a fair balance between children who have access to books outside of school and those who do not. Not all children have easy access to a public library or can afford to visit bookstores for their reading and research needs. Even for students near public libraries, access to resources has been reduced as public library budgets and hours have been cut.”


“Research has proven that:

+ The presence of a certified/licensed librarian who teaches students how to find and use information and provides reading support results in higher student reading achievement.
+ Student access to the school library—measured by the number of hours the library is open—is significantly related to standardized reading test scores at elementary, middle, and high school levels.
+ As the staffing, collections and funding of school library programs incrementally increase reading scores also rise.”

All parents want their children to succeed in school and get a good education to prepare them for life and work in the 21st-century. Research tells us that when parents are involved in their children’s school and education, their children do much better in school. Specifically, “students with involved parents are more likely to:

+ earn higher grades and test scores, and enroll in higher-level programs;
+ be promoted, pass their classes, and earn credits;
+ attend school regularly;
+ have better social skills, show improved behavior, and adapt well to school;
+ graduate and go on to post secondary education”.¹

Research also shows that quality school library programs under the direction of a certified/licensed school librarian result in higher levels of academic achievement as evidenced by improved standardized reading and writing test scores.² Quality school library programs and librarians help children and teens by teaching them how to find reliable information, think critically, make informed decisions, work productively with others, use the Internet safely and ethically, and communicate ideas effectively.

Using national school library guidelines³ as a foundation, this brochure outlines goals and key questions that detail what you as a parent should expect from your school’s library program and ways that you can become involved. In their lifetimes our children will need to solve problems that we cannot yet even imagine. Already they are using new communication and information technologies that make students of today global citizens who will compete internationally for the jobs of tomorrow. Working together, parents, school administrators, and librarians can develop a top-notch school library program that is the hub of learning in the school to give students the necessary tools, instruction, and resources to achieve—now and in the future.


**GOAL:** The school library program supports your child's reading for learning and personal enjoyment.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**
- Does the school library program help your child to learn to read?
- Does the library program offer promotional activities to encourage and increase reading?
- Does the librarian broaden your child's reading interests through exposure to new and interesting authors, genres, and other resources?
- Does the librarian help you as a parent to guide your child's reading by providing reading lists or recommended websites?

**GOAL:** The school library program provides opportunities for your child to seek information for personal growth and learning.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**
- Does the school provide time for your child to independently explore topics of interest in the library?
- Does the library program provide opportunities for your child to ask questions and seek answers from both print and electronic sources of information?
- Does the librarian help you as a parent know what library resources are available to help your child explore personal interests?

**GOAL:** The school library program provides opportunities for your child to become information literate.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**
- Does the school librarian work with teachers in all subject areas to teach your child to:
  - find needed information?
  - select and evaluate appropriate information?
  - paraphrase information and give credit to authors?
  - present and share what is learned?
- Does the librarian teach your child a research process that includes posing questions, finding answers, and developing critical thinking and communication skills?
- Does the librarian work with teachers to evaluate your child's library-related school assignments?
- Does the school library program help your child complete homework assignments and be successful in school?
**GOAL:** The school library provides equal opportunities for all students to use library resources.

**KEY QUESTIONS:**

Does your child have access to the school library and a full-time certified/licensed school librarian throughout the school day?

Does your child visit the library frequently with his/her class? Individually? In small groups? As needed?

Does the library offer 24–7 remote access to library resources and subscription databases?

Are the library's circulation policies flexible to meet the needs of your child?

Does the school have procedures to allow your child to borrow electronic devices (such as laptops, audio players, etc.) that might be needed to use library resources?

Does the library's website have a parents' section with information and resources?

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**Savvy parents and educators know that the school library is key to teaching students not just to read but to practice the skills they need to seek, evaluate and use information throughout their lives. In fact, research shows those students from schools with professionally staffed, fully equipped libraries score higher on achievement tests.**

GOAL: The school library is the central learning hub of the school.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- Is the library an attractive, pleasant, accessible, and friendly place that your child enjoys visiting?
- Is there enough room for a class and small additional groups of students to comfortably use the library simultaneously?
- Does the library have enough room to encourage the use of computers and other technologies to complete school projects, as well as areas for leisure reading and browsing?

GOAL: The school library is a welcoming and friendly place that students like to visit.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- Does the librarian maximize school-allocated resources to create a library that your child enjoys visiting?
- Does the librarian create ways for parents and community members to volunteer in the library?
- Are there opportunities for parent and community members to organize fundraising activities with the librarian to support library programs and services?
GOAL: The school recognizes the importance of the school library program and values the school librarian’s representation on key decision-making committees.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- Does the librarian serve on curriculum, technology, and/or other leadership committees?
- Has a supervisor or administrator been assigned to oversee the school library program?
- Are there opportunities for parents to support the school library program through participation on school advisory committees?

GOAL: The school library program has up-to-date instructional technologies, and students and teachers are taught how to use them.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- Do students have adequate access to computers and other technologies for students?
- Does the library program include teaching students and staff how to use technology?
- Does the school provide opportunities for the school librarian to update his/her technology skills?
- Has the librarian offered a parent workshop on technologies or websites your children are using?

GOAL: The school librarian keeps parents and the community informed about the school library and its programs.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- Does the school librarian inform you how to use them?

GOAL: The school library program is annually reviewed with school and community input to improve learning for students.

KEY QUESTIONS:
- Does the school library have a mission statement and annual goals and objectives?
- Does the school librarian make public an annual library report?
- Are there opportunities for parents to provide input in the annual review of the library program?

Developed and distributed through a grant from the Bound to Stay Bound Books Foundation.
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"Research has proven that:"

- If you have access to public libraries, you are more likely to be a regular book reader;
- There is a direct relationship between children who have access to books outside of school and those who do not. Not all children have easy access to a public library or can afford to visit bookstores for their reading and research needs.
- According to the American Association of School Librarians, students who are information literate can:
  - Pursue personal and aesthetic growth.
  - Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge;
  - Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge;
  - Use the Internet safely and ethically.

"Strong school library programs are essential to create a fair balance between children who have access to books outside of school and those who do not. Not all children have easy access to a public library or can afford to visit bookstores for their reading and research needs."

In a survey of over 13,000 Ohio students, over 99 percent of students in grades 3 through 12 believe school libraries and their services help them become better learners. Over 88 percent say the school library helps them get better grades; almost 75 percent say it helps with homework, and over 92 percent say computers in the school library help improve their overall academic work.

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- Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge;
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