

School Librarians as Learning Leaders: An Administrator's Guide

As an administrator, you are asked to be knowledgeable about many facets related to education. An asset for you and everyone in the school community is the school librarian. The school librarian, in collaboration with others, plays a unique and significant role as a leader in the development of the school library as a learning environment conceived to meet present and future needs of students as they become successful, information-literate learners, workers, and citizens.

Assembled here is a focused list of resources that reflect the potential of today's school librarian to be a leader in furthering school instructional goals, building a collaborative culture, and impacting student achievement.

INFOGRAPHICS

The following infographics describe a school librarian's role in the Future Ready initiative, convey the importance of a strong school library, and summarize research from School Library Impact Studies conducted throughout the country.

[Future Ready Librarians \(Infographic\)](#)

Future Ready Librarians (FRL) are at the forefront of transformational, digital learning as they “lead, teach, and support” school learning goals that result in personalized student learning.

Alliance for Excellence in Education. n.d. *Future Ready Librarians*. Future Ready Schools. <http://1gu04j2l2i9n1bOwor2zmgua.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Library_flyer_download.pdf>.

[School Librarians Transform Learning \(Infographic\)](#)

Data show that school librarians are needed more than ever to provide equitable physical and intellectual access to resources and tools within a stimulating and safe learning environment.

American Association of School Librarians and American Library Association. 2014. “School Librarians Transform Learning” infographic. *School Libraries Transform Learning*. *American Libraries* Digital Supplement. (September/October) <http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org/aasl/files/content/aaslissues/advocacy/AASL_Infographic_FINAL.pdf>.

[School Libraries & Student Achievement \(Infographic\)](#)

The School Library Impact Studies provide a rich body of research that makes the case that robust library programs positively impact student achievement far beyond the school library walls.

Library Research Service. 2013. “School Libraries & Student Achievement.” <https://www.lrs.org/documents/school/school_library_impact.pdf>.

JOURNAL ARTICLES, POSITION STATEMENTS, REPORTS

These resources describe the modern school library program. They outline how school librarians meet the needs of learners now and into the future.

[Definition of an Effective School Library Program \(Position Statement\)](#)

AASL's position statement clearly states that meeting the personalized learning and resource needs of all students is the core mission of professional school librarians. Fully staffed and supported school libraries foster individual student growth.

American Association of School Librarians. 2016. “Definition of an Effective School Library Program.” <www.ala.org/aasl/essa/effective>.

[Digital Native ≠ Digital Literacy \(Article\)](#)

There's a difference between being able to access a device and being able to access, evaluate, and use the available information. This article details how librarians, working with other educators, can transform learning environments to ensure students' digital literacy.

Martin, Ann M, and Kathleen R. Roberts 2015. “Digital Native ≠ Digital Literacy.” *Principal*. (January/February): 18-21. <http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org/aasl/files/content/aaslissues/MartinRoberts_JF15.pdf>.

Leading In and Beyond the Library (Report)

Digital citizenship and effective use of technology are essential skills for student success. This report outlines how school librarians lend professional expertise to the common goal of improved learning and instruction through technology resources and tools.

Alliance for Excellent Education. 2014. *Leading In and Beyond the Library*. <<http://all4ed.org/reports-factsheets/leading-in-and-beyond-the-library>>.

Scholastic's School Libraries Work! A Compendium of Research Supporting the Effectiveness of School Libraries (Research Report)

Research supports the power of school library programs to transform student learning outcomes. That is why *School Libraries Work!*, which is based on ongoing research, is such a valuable resource for understanding the potential of school libraries.

Scholastic, Inc. 2016. *School Libraries Work! A Compendium of Research Supporting the Effectiveness of School Libraries*. <<https://drive.google.com/file/d/OBOWZFjsk1bDAT3UteTNmLVhUWkO/view>>.

School Library Programs Improve Student Learning: Administrators (Brochure)

This resource outlines the role of the school librarian as a collaborative instructional leader, improving student learning and positively contributing to the entire school community.

American Library Association. 2011. *School Library Programs Improve Student Learning: Administrators*. <http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org/aasl/files/content/aaslissues/brochures/administrators_panels-color.pdf>.

VIDEOS

These video resources give voice to administrators and others as they provide powerful examples of why the school library and librarian are essential to a successful educational program.

AASL 2016 NSLPY Award Recipient (Video)

Visit Veterans Memorial Elementary School in Naples, Florida, recipient of AASL's 2016 National School Library Program of the Year Award, and discover how school libraries and school librarians impact student learning.

American Association of School Librarians. 2017. "AASL 2016 NSLPY Award Recipient." Video. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtO6XQ1MQjU>>.

Principals Know: School Librarians Are the Heart of the School (Video)

Hear what other administrators from many different districts and at all levels have to say about the importance of the school librarian in their schools.

Moreillon, Judi, and Teresa Starrett. 2014. "Principals Know: School Librarians Are the Heart of the School." Video. College of Professional Education, Texas Woman's University. <<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=biHGT7L0BPO>>.

School Libraries Matter: The Changing Role of the School Librarian (Video)

This is not the school library of the past! Principals, publishers, school librarians, and library leaders explain why school libraries of today have evolved and are the heart of the school.

Capstone Publisher. 2014. "School Libraries Matter: The Changing Role of the School Librarian." Video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eilZjp3_h8>.



The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) empowers leaders to transform teaching and learning. *School Librarians as Learning Leaders: An Administrator's Guide* is part of the 2016-2017 AASL Presidential Initiative.

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Access additional resources at www.ala.org/aasl/learningleaders.