

2015-2016 ALA CD#47_62616_ACT
2016 ALA Annual Conference

This document became CD20.7 and was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Resolution on Equity for All School Libraries

Whereas equity of access is one of five key action areas adopted by the American Library Association to fulfill its mission of providing the highest quality library and information services for all people;

Whereas the American Library Association values our nation's diversity and strives to reflect that diversity by providing a full spectrum of resources and services to everyone in the communities we serve (ALA Policy 53.9 Libraries: An American Value);

Whereas the American Library Association has recognized the role of school libraries and librarians in the academic success of K-12 students in its 2012 resolution, "School Libraries and Librarians Are Critical to Educational Success";

Whereas high-quality instructional materials for students and teachers, including print and digital learning materials, textbooks, and other materials, promote rigorous engagement with the curriculum;

Whereas school districts providing these resources should ensure that students have equitable access to them without regard to race, color, socioeconomic status, gender identity, national origin, or disability;

Whereas there is an inequity of resources in school libraries with a widening of gaps between collections in affluent districts versus those in lower-income areas;

Whereas closings of libraries, and reductions in services, collections, and staffing, particularly staffing by certified librarians, occur in disproportionate numbers in areas with more African-American and other minority students, low-income populations, and in rural areas;

Whereas there is a widening of the digital divide in areas where state coalitions of digital resources are losing funding;

Whereas more than 60 studies in two dozen states show that the "levels of library funding, staffing levels, collection size and range, and the instructional role of the librarian all have a direct impact on student achievement." (Gretes 2013, page 2).

Whereas The Every Student Succeeds Act, signed into law by President Barack Obama on December 10, 2015, includes provisions that specifically support school libraries, school librarians, and the role they play in academic achievement, literacy, and digital citizenship, and reflects our national commitment to providing educational opportunities to "every child, regardless of race, income, background, the zip code where they live";

Resolution on Equity for All to School Libraries

Whereas this critical role of school librarians is underscored by the recent announcement from the U.S. Department of Education that half of all Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants will continue to be awarded to school libraries; and

Whereas the American Association of School Librarians has adopted the position statement that an effective school library program has a certified school librarian at the helm, personalized learning environments, and equitable access to resources to ensure a well-rounded education for every student; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA), on behalf of its members:

- 1) endorses the idea that every student should have access to an effective school library program and that school budgets should include adequate funding for these programs;
- 2) advocates for equitable access to effective school library programs with a certified school librarian at the helm, personalized learning environments, and equitable access to resources to ensure a well-rounded education for every student;
- 3) works with research committees to document the impact on students of minority communities, low-income communities, and rural communities when cutting resources;
- 4) advocates for equitable access to well-curated, high-quality, and accessible electronic information resources by encouraging state departments of education and state coalition partners to establish and maintain funding of digital databases and shared resources to provide greater equity of access to all patrons in states and regions; and
- 5) continues to encourage school librarians to apply for Innovative Approaches to Literacy grants.

Mover: Diane R. Chen, AASL Division Councilor

Secunder: Sara Kelly Johns, Executive Board member

E-Form for Resolution on Equity for All School Libraries

Submitted on Sunday, June 26, 2016 - 11:04

Submitted by user:

Submitted values are:

Date: 06/26/2016

Resolution author(s): Diane R. Chen, AASL Division Councilor

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1. Title of Resolution: Resolution on Equity for All to School Libraries
2. ALA Units and/or Committees Consulted (if any): The AASL division councilor posted to the ALA Council listserv, then created an ALA Community open for all to communicate, edit, and consult on this resolution. The Community was called Equity for All to School Libraries and is available at <http://connect.ala.org/node/253054>. A google drive folder was used to organize various versions of this resolution as it was being developed. The chair of the Committee on Legislation, various staff members from the Office of Advocacy, the Public Awareness Office, and the Washington Office participated in reading and commenting.
3. Endorsements by ALA Units and/or Committees (if any): American Association of School Librarians (AASL)
4. Fiscal implications: Specify the resources needed to carry out the resolution's directive(s): Staff time to coordinate work among ALA offices and divisions. This continues work that the Washington Office is doing
5. List all parties to whom resolution should be sent: The ALA Washington Office, the Office of Advocacy, the Public Awareness Office, the Office of Research and Statistics and the Office of Diversity, Literacy, and Outreach Services.
6. Impact on ALA Policies and Positions: Explain how the resolution supports ALA's Strategic Plan, its mission, and/or its core values.: This supports the ALA core value of equity. ALA believes every student should have access to an effective school library program. If needed, a statement on the need for school budgets to include adequate funding for these programs should be developed.
 - 6a) ALA general policy or viewpoint: If the resolution sets forth a general policy or an ALA viewpoint, describe.:
 - 6b) Change in existing policy: If this resolution necessitates a change in existing policy, state the policy number and the change.:
 - 6c) New policy: If this resolution establishes new policy, describe.:
 - 6d) Policy conflicts: If this resolution conflicts with existing policy, state provisions for resolving the conflict.:
7. Initiating Committee or Unit (if any): American Association of School Librarians (AASL)

8. Pertinent Background Information, e.g. bibliography, citations, supportive quotes, URLs, etc.:

Baker, Bruce D., David G. Sciarra, & Danielle Farrie, Is School Funding Fair?: A National Report Card, 3d Ed., Education Law Center, January 2014. available at www.schoolfundingfairness.org

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). U. S. Department of Education. <http://www.ed.gov/essa?src=rn>

Gray, Lucinda et al., Educational Technology in U.S. Public Schools: Fall 2008, (Apr. 2010), (NCES 2010–034), U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2010/2010034.pdf>

Gretes, Frances. August 2013. School Library Impact Studies: A Review of Findings and Guide to Sources. Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation.

9. Mover's Name: Diane R. Chen, AASL Division Councilor

10. Seconder's Name: Sara Kelly Johns, ALA Executive Board