

## TEACHER LIBRARIANS AND SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAMS

- WHEREAS, National studies have shown a direct correlation between increased academic achievement and the quality of library media staff, collections, and programs<sup>1, 2, 3</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, Many Utah high schools risk losing accreditation from the Northwest Association of Accredited Schools because school library media centers do not meet standards for certified staff and resources<sup>4, 5</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, The Utah State Board of Education has adopted library media core curricula, which call for students to become critical thinkers, problem-solvers, and continually evolving learners through the instruction of information and media literacy skills<sup>6, 7, 8</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, As citizens of a global society experiencing an information explosion, our students must learn to locate, access, evaluate, and apply information from numerous resources in multiple formats (print, non-print and electronic) and to present data and information in compelling and useful ways<sup>9, 10</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, The instruction of concepts of legal, ethical, and social responsibilities in accessing, using, and creating information in various formats is rooted in the Utah Library Media Core Curriculum<sup>11, 12, 13</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, Students need new, inviting books to practice and refine their reading skills, and to value reading for the development of new understandings, personal growth and enjoyment<sup>14, 15</sup>; and
- WHEREAS, New ways must be found to staff library media centers and provide financial resources to strengthen collections and programs in order to provide equitable access to ideas and information in various formats throughout the school community<sup>16, 17, 18</sup>; now, therefore, be it
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support increased funding for teacher librarians and support staff to help schools meet accreditation standards; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support increased funding to provide sufficient ongoing funding for the purchase of school library books and electronic resources and, thereby, renew and update collections of current, high quality, and high interest materials; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA encourage local school boards to hire certified teacher librarians, having earned teaching certificates and library media endorsement, at all levels; and be it further
- Resolved, That Utah PTA support the use of information technologies as part of school library media services to increase access to a variety of resources for students and teachers; and be it further

Resolved. That Utah PTA and its constituent bodies encourage local school boards to meet State Board of Education standards for library media center staffing, programs, resources, and facilities.

(Updates EDU 2000-2 Library Media Centers)

Documentation:

- <sup>1</sup> "School Libraries Work!: Research Foundation Paper", 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. New York: Scholastic Library Publishing, 2008.
- <sup>2</sup> Lance, Keith Curry, Marcia J. Rodney, and Christine Hamilton-Pennell, Powerful Libraries Make Powerful Learners: The Illinois Study, [Executive Summary Report]. Canton, IL: Illinois School Library media Association, 2005: //, v, *vii-xi, xiii*, 120-124.
- <sup>3</sup> Hartzell, Gary, "Evidence that Quality School Library Media Programs Positively Affect Student Achievement," Capitalizing on the School Library's Potential to Positively Affect Student Achievement, <http://www.laurabushfoundation.org/Handout.pdf>: [June 2, 2002]: 1, 2, 5-9.
- <sup>4</sup> "Accreditation Standards for the Accreditation of All Categories of Schools". Northwest Association of Accredited Schools, July 2009: 7-8.
- <sup>5</sup> Dr. Sharyl G. Smith, "A Statement on the Current Staffing Levels of Certified Teacher Librarians in Utah"
- <sup>6</sup> "Utah State Office of Education Core Curriculum: Library Media K-6". Salt Lake City: Utah State Office of Education. 2000: /-//.
- <sup>7</sup> "Secondary Utah Library Media/Information Literacy Core Curriculum Standards: Levels 7-12". Salt Lake City: Utah State Office of Education. 1996: /-/v.
- <sup>8</sup> Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills. The Mile Guide: Milestones for Improving Learning & Education. 2009: 8-9, [14], 25, 28.
- <sup>9</sup> Spitzer, Kathleen L., Eisenberg, Michael B. And Lowe, Carrie A. Information Literacy: Essential Skills for the Information Age. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse University, ERIC Clearinghouse on Information & Technology: 119-120; 224-227.
- <sup>10</sup> Todd, Ross J. "Student Learning Through Ohio School Libraries: A summary of the Ohio Research Study." Presented to the Ohio Educational Library Media Association, December 15, 2003. Ross J. Todd, Carol C. Kuhlthau, and OELMA. 2004.
- <sup>11</sup> Utah State Office of Education Core Curriculum: Library Media K-6. Salt Lake City: Utah State Office of Education. 2000: 8-9.
- <sup>12</sup> Secondary Utah Library Media/Information Literacy Core Curriculum Standards: Levels 7-12. Salt Lake City: Utah State Office of Education. 1996: /V, 4-5.
- <sup>13</sup> Jenkins, Henry *et al.* Confronting the Challenges of Participatory Culture: Media Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Chicago: The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, [n.d. 2006?]: 3-4, 12, 16-17.
- <sup>14</sup> Middle Grades Reading Network. University of Evansville [IN]. "2000 Impact Evaluation of School Library Printed Materials Grant." August 2000. <http://mgrn.evansville.edu/2000.htm>
- <sup>15</sup> Krashen, Stephen D., The Power of Reading: Insights from the Research, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., Westport, Connecticut: Libraries Unlimited, 2004, 58-59, 65-67.
- <sup>16</sup> "Access to Resources and Services in the School Library Media Program: An Interpretation of the LIBRARY BILL OF RIGHTS", Chicago: American Library Association, July 2, 2008.
- <sup>17</sup> Utah State Office of Education, the Utah Educational Library Media Association, Utah Library Media Supervisors. Standards: Utah School Library Media Programs. Salt Lake City:USOE. 2003.
- <sup>18</sup> Champlin, Connie and David Loertscher. "Reinvent Your School's Library and Watch Student Academic Achievement Increase." Principal Leadership. March 2003: 67-70.