

## Requirements for School Library Programs: Summary by State

**There is no federal constitutional requirement for school districts to provide school libraries; each individual state, therefore, has the discretion to pass legislation and regulations allowing school libraries to be established, operated and maintained in schools.**

**Alabama:** Funds certified school librarians in all schools. "Instructional support units are calculated in the classification of principal, assistant principal, counselor, and librarian as recommended in the accreditation standards for elementary schools, middle schools, secondary schools, and unit schools of the commissions that comprise the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)."

Alabama Admin. Code: <http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/ed/290-2-1.pdf>

**Alaska:** Established a public school library collection development grant program with maximum grants of \$3,000 per fiscal year for eligible public school libraries to expand and improve their library collections. To be eligible for the grant program, a library must be a public school library established and supported by the school district where the district contributes from its budget an amount no less than the grant award or contributes in-kind value of services.

Alaska Stat. Ann. §14.56.360(a),(b) (West 2008)

**Arizona:** Does not require school libraries, but the governing board of a school district may establish, maintain, and report on its libraries to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

<http://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00362.htm>

**Arkansas:** Requires public schools to budget and spend yearly for purchasing and maintaining library resources and include input from teachers, parents, and students in the acquisition of instructional materials. The role of the library media center shall support technology as a tool for learning.

Schools with more than 300 students must employ a full-time, licensed library media specialist; schools with more than 1500 students must employ two full-time library media specialists; schools with fewer than 300 students are entitled to employ a half-time, licensed school library media specialist. The library media specialist(s) shall ensure that access to records and resource data bases shall be available to students and assist students in the development and use of research skills.

Also requires a collection of at least 3,000 volumes or at least eight (8) books per student enrolled and that each media center is equipped with one computer for administrative purposes only for multimedia/networking capacity.

Ark. Admin. Code §00.5.15.2-16.0 (2010)

[http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Learning\\_Services/Guidance\\_School\\_Counseling/ade\\_282\\_standards\\_0709\\_current.pdf](http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Guidance_School_Counseling/ade_282_standards_0709_current.pdf)

**California:** Funds school libraries through the California School and Library Improvement Block Grant.

West's Ann.Cal.Educ.Code. §41570 (West 2005)

**Colorado:** Utilizes a regional library service system that is a consortium of publicly supported libraries within a designated geographic area whose members are comprised of public libraries, school districts, academic libraries, and special libraries and cooperatives. Funding is appropriated by the Colorado General Assembly and allocated by the Colorado State Librarian or designee. More than \$5.7 million was appropriated for statewide library programs in 2010.

Colorado Department of Education: <http://www.cde.state.co.us>

**Connecticut:** No regulations for school library staffing or funding. The only regulations are part of New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and these regulations affect only high schools.

NEASC: <http://www.neasc.org>

**Delaware:** No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located.

Delaware Department of Education: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us>

**Florida:** Requires district school boards, district school superintendents, and school principals of K-12 schools to establish and maintain a program of school library media services and center for all public schools in the district but requires no staffing.

FLA. STAT. ANN. §1006.28 (West 2011)

**Georgia:** No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located.

**Hawaii:** No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located. Hawaii Department of Education:

Hawaii Department of Education: <http://doe.k12.hi.us>

**Idaho:** Idaho Department of Education published book and Website on developing school library programs with a philosophy of creating lifelong learners:

Idaho School Librarian's Information Manual, 2004:

<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/schoollibraries/docs/tech/slim.pdf>

**Illinois:** Requires a library and media center be available to students and staff run by a qualified individual (or one whom meets professional development requirements). A grant program was established in 1989 to fund school libraries, providing 75 cents per student based on official enrollment of the preceding September 30 of the academic year. If, in particular circumstances, a district relies on a public library collection for resources, the district must maintain evidence that students receive library instruction.

23 ILL. ADMIN. CODE tit. 23 §1.420(o) (2011) and Illinois Library System Act, 75 ILCS §10/8.4 (Sept. 22, 2008).

Guidelines developed by Illinois School Library Media Association School Library Media Program  
Guidelines: *Linking for Learning* (2010): <http://www.islma.org/linkingforlearning.htm>

**Indiana:** Requires all schools to have a media program that is an integral part of the educational program. A licensed media specialist shall supervise the media program. Each school shall spend at least eight dollars (\$8) per student per year from its 22200 account to maintain its media program.

Indiana State Board of Education; 511 IAC 6.1-5-6; filed Jan 9, 1989, 11:00 a.m.: 12 IR 1192; readopted filed Oct 12, 2001, 12:55 p.m.: 25 IR 937; readopted filed Nov 20, 2007, 11:36 a.m.: 20071219-IR-511070386RFA) IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 511, r. 5 (2007) <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/pdf-iac/iac2006oldfmt/T05110/A00061.PDF?IACT=511>.

**Iowa:** Passed a 2006 amendment to State School Code requiring the Board of Directors in each school district to establish a K-12 library program and employ a qualified teacher librarian licensed by the board of educational examiners.

IOWA CODE ANN. §336.8 (2006)

Iowa Department of Education:

[http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=959](http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=959) See 2.3(12):  
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/DOCS/ACO/IAC/LINC/03-21-2012.Supplement.pdf>

**Kansas:** The State Board of Education shall adopt and maintain standards, criteria, guidelines or rules and regulations for school libraries and other educational materials with the exception of textbooks.

KAN. STAT. ANN. §72-7513 (West 2001)

**Kentucky:** Obligates the Board of Education of each local school district to establish and maintain a library media center in every elementary and secondary school to promote information literacy, literacy and technology in the curriculum, and to facilitate teaching, student achievement, and lifelong learning.

KY. REV. STAT. ANN. §158.102(1) (Baldwin 2000).

**Louisiana:** No requirements for school libraries or funding for school libraries.

Guidelines recommend that schools shall provide relevant print and digital resources and have a librarian available dependent on enrollment numbers.

*Guidelines for Library Media Programs in Louisiana Schools* (2004):

<http://www.louisianaschools.net/lde/uploads/15303.pdf>

Louisiana Department of Education: <http://www.louisianabelieves.com>

**Maine:** Requires each library to maintain a collection with various mediums and electronic resources overseen by a certified media specialist who may service multiple schools. Resources should be available to enrolled students during school hours and

the Comprehensive Education Plan shall address updating and maintaining library-media resources.

Chapter 125 Basic Approval Standards: <http://www.maine.gov/education/LR%20Rules%20Document.htm>

### **Maryland:**

Requires each school system to establish a library media program run by certified school media personnel for all students and include at least a collection involving various mediums and literacy and library instruction within an adequate physical facility. School media personnel must be sure to integrate and develop the instructional programs, collaborate with teachers and provide professional development, and provide access to the outside community. Each school system should also develop a media program implementation document to be reviewed and updated regularly. The State Department of Education should periodically review the school system library media programs and submit results to the appropriate local school superintendent.

COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations):

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/13a/13a.05.04.01.htm>

**Massachusetts:** Requires school districts to establish school libraries and non-print media services including acquiring or renting library and non-print media material, resources, and appropriate equipment as well as appropriate personnel.  
GEN. LAWS ANN. Ch. 15, §1R (2012)

**Michigan:** *Guidelines for Michigan School Library Programs* call for students to actively participate in well-equipped and staffed libraries that have programming focusing on three areas: teaching and learning to support classroom curriculum, information access and delivery in various formats and program administration at an exemplary level.

[https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fdocuments%2Fhal%2FIm\\_MISLMPguidesrevfinal2\\_266519\\_7.pdf](https://docs.google.com/viewer?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.michigan.gov%2Fdocuments%2Fhal%2FIm_MISLMPguidesrevfinal2_266519_7.pdf)

Michigan Department of Education: <http://www.michigan.gov/mde>

**Minnesota:** The Minnesota Uniform Financial Accounting Report Standards for 2013 calls for a collection of resources to be available to students, teachers and administration. In Minnesota, funds are allocated based on the goals and programs in the current The State of Minnesota LSTA Five-Year Plan 2008-2012 to enhance, expand and strengthen the efficiency, reach, and effectiveness of library programs and services (CFDA 45.310 Title 20 - Education Chapter 72 - Museum and Library Services, Subchapter II - Library Services and Technology, P.L. 104-208, as amended by P.L. 108-81).

UFARS: <http://www.education.state.mn.us/MDE/SchSup/SchFin/FinMgmt/UFARS/>

**Mississippi:** Requires school districts to employ in each school a licensed librarian or media specialist who devotes no more than one-fourth of the workday to library/media administrative activities. If student enrollment is 499 or less, a half-time licensed librarian or media specialist is required. If the student enrollment is 500 or more, a full-time licensed librarian or media specialist is required.

{MS Code 37-17-6(3)(a-e)} 5.1, 5.2

Minnesota Department of Education Public School Accountability Standards (p.20)

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/accreditation-library/revised-10-9-12-2012-stds.pdf>

**Missouri:** The Missouri Department of Education developed Standards for School Library Media Centers and determined that library media center expenditures for materials should be at least 1 percent of the state average per eligible student expenditure.

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

[http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/lmc/documents/library\\_standards\\_08.pdf](http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/lmc/documents/library_standards_08.pdf)

**Montana:** Requires certified teaching librarian staff and physical facilities based on student population. Residents may also use the school libraries as long as such use does not interfere with school use. Students are to be taught media and literacy skills and skills to interact responsibly in a global society. Collaboration with teachers and long range planning for the collection and school curriculum should reflect the standards being taught to students and reflect the authentic contributions of Montana's American Indians and other ethnic and minority groups.

Montana Code Annotated 2009: 20-7-202. History: En. 75-7517 by Sec. 388, Ch. 5, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7517. 20-7-203. 75-7518 by Sec. 389, Ch. 5, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7518. 10.55.1801

**Nebraska:** The library must provide a wide range of materials, be available to students for the entire school day, contribute to information literacy and support the local curriculum. The library should be staffed by a certified librarian depending on the enrollment numbers. Each library must maintain one encyclopedia (print or electronic) published within five years and obtain at least 25 new titles every year for elementary schools and 150 titles in High Schools (number change when including digital resources). Middle and High Schools must subscribe to particular numbers of periodicals.

Nebraska Department of Education:

[http://www.education.ne.gov/Legal/webrulespdf/RULE10\\_PLEDGE\\_2012.pdf](http://www.education.ne.gov/Legal/webrulespdf/RULE10_PLEDGE_2012.pdf)

**Nevada:** No legislation or regulations identified.

Nevada Department of Education: <http://www.doe.nv.gov>

**New Hampshire:** Each school must have a library media specialist and there must be a written plan for the upkeep and cataloguing of the collection.

<http://www.nhpolicy.org/reports/citizensguide.pdf>

**New Jersey:** Little legislation relates directly to schools; listed at this site:

[http://lss.njstatelib.org/library\\_law#school](http://lss.njstatelib.org/library_law#school)

**New Mexico:** Established a school library material fund in the state treasury from which the State Department of Education may distribute money to school districts, state institutions and governmentally controlled schools to pay for the cost of purchasing school library material. Funding is obtained through appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, and bequests and distributed through state administration.

N.M. STAT. ANN. §22-15C-5 (West 2006)

**New York:** Currently, each district is required to have a certified library media specialist, unless equivalent service can be provided alternatively in particular circumstances involving enrollment numbers. Each library receives \$6.25/student in funding.

In 2012, the New York Board of Regents accepted *2020 Vision and Plan for Library Services* that implements curriculum aligned with the Common Core State Standards, promotes instructional leadership and access to the library and encourages flexible scheduling. (New York Board of Regents, 2012)

Vision 2020 recommendations: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/adviscns/rac/2020final/priorities.htm>

NYCRR TITLE 8 –EDUCATION - §91.. Statutory authority: Education Law, § 207, Last reviewed 3/15/10

[http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished\\_regs/912.htm](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished_regs/912.htm)

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/library/newyorkconsolidatedlaws.html>

**North Carolina:** Focus on standards for School Library Media Coordinators. *North Carolina Evaluation Process: School Library Media Coordinator: Users' Guide*, Draft, November 2012: <http://ncpublicschools.org/docs/educatoreffect/ncees/support/slmc-guide.pdf>

**North Dakota:** No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located.

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction: <http://dpi.state.nd.us/>

**Ohio:** Extensive guidelines on school library management have been developed to ensure students can meet Ohio's Education Standards.

Ohio Department of Education:

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1703&ContentID=13952&Content=129210>



**Oklahoma:** Requires a certified school library media specialist in every school district and a half-time certified library specialist in schools with student enrollment lower than 300. Collections should include various current formats, and promote professional development among teachers. An ongoing evaluation program should determine if the qualifications are being met.

O.A.C. §210:35-9-71 (1992), 210:35-3-121-4, 126-128.

**Oregon:** Legislation adopted in 2009 under “Continuous Improvement Plans” requires school districts to identify goals toward implementing a “strong school library program.” These goals concern management, staff, K-12 library skills, equitable access, development and maintenance of library collections, and staff development.

Oregon Association of School Libraries, OASL on Strong School Library Programs: <http://oasl.memberclicks.net/hb-2586>

**Pennsylvania:** Mandates libraries in many educational settings, but not in public schools. For example, the state mandates libraries in: (i) private, not public, elementary and secondary schools (22 Pa Code 55.33, 57.21, 59.23); (ii) hospitals (28 Pa Code 101.31 and Chapter 145); (iii) clinical laboratories (28 Pa Code 5.32); (iv) practical nursing programs (49 Pa Code 29.211); (v) barber schools (49 Pa Code 3.73); (vi) cosmetology schools (49 Pa Code 7.130); (vii) the General Assembly (101 Pa Code 3.38); (viii) institutions of higher education (22 Pa Code 31.41); and (ix) juvenile facilities and adult prisons (based on court orders).

**Rhode Island:** Mandate for school librarians changed several years ago and is now a non-specific requirement for high quality libraries in the Basic Education Program:

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education:

[http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/Docs/RegentsRegulations/BEP\\_FINAL\\_070110.pdf](http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/Docs/RegentsRegulations/BEP_FINAL_070110.pdf)

**South Carolina:** Requires PK through grade 5 schools with fewer than 375 students to provide at least half-time services of a certified library media specialist. Schools with 375 or more students must provide the services of a full-time certified library media specialist. For Grades 6–12, depending on student enrollment numbers, schools must provide varying amounts of student access to a professional library media specialist. Under “43-231. Defined Program K-5” and “Basic Program/Curriculum for Grades 6-8” and “43-234. Defined Program, Grades 9-12” From: 43-205. (Statutory Authority: S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-5-60 (2004), 20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq. (2002) [No Child Left Behind Act of 2001], and S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-59-10 et seq. (Supp. 2005))

South Carolina Legislature: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/c043.php>

**South Dakota:** Does not require certified school librarians in schools; but some school districts, however, do. Requirements are in place for a library endorsement certificate.

South Dakota Department of Education: <http://www.doe.sd.gov>

**Tennessee:** Requires one full-time library information specialist for K-8 schools with student enrollment of 550 or more and high schools with an enrollment ranging from 300 to less than 1,500 students; requires one half-time library information specialist for K-8 schools with 400-549 students and high schools with enrollments fewer than 300 students; and requires a staff member designated by the principal to serve as the library information coordinator for K-8 schools with fewer than 400 students.

TENN. R & REGS. tit. 0520, ch. 0520-01-03.07(2)(a) (2002)

**Texas:** Texas standards are student-success centric and are evaluated in six different areas. Number requirements for staffing are not given, only that the librarian manages staff, volunteers, and partners to support the curriculum, to satisfy learners' diverse needs, and to encourage lifelong learning. No numbers are given for funding, either. The code states that, "The librarian advocates for funding and manages school library program budgets to build and maintain a program with resources and services that support a curriculum designed to develop information-literate students who achieve success in the classroom and function effectively in the community."

Title 13. Cultural Resources Part I. Texas State Library and Archive Commission Chapter 4. School Library Programs Subchapter A. Standards and Guidelines Section 4.1

<https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/ld/schoollibs/sls/introduction.html#components>

**Utah:** Along with other criteria, each school, regardless of size, should have one certified library media specialist with more as enrollment increases. Budgets shall be sufficient to guarantee that the collection, print and non-print, is renewed annually at a minimum rate of 5%. Additionally, One-time federal, state, or grant funds may supplement the school library media budget, but must not supplant ongoing budgeted district and/or local funding:

<http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/library/Resources/Standards.aspx>

**Vermont:** Requires schools with 300+ students to employ a certified library media specialist. Schools should adopt a plan that provides for future growth and ensures access to a varied collection, explains policy for challenged materials, teaches proper library skills to students and offers staff support with curriculum.

2120.8.2 Staff: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/rules/2000.html#staff>

2120.8.11 Library: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/board/rules/2000.html#library>

**Virginia:** Requires a library media specialist depending on student enrollment, beginning with a half-time librarian for up to 299 students in elementary, middle and high schools and a full-time librarian if enrollment is more than 300 students.

§ 22.1-253.13:2. <http://lis.virginia.gov/cgi-bin/legp604.exe?000+cod+22.1-253.13C2>

**Washington:** Funding has not yet been appropriated, but guidelines are established for schools to have a librarian depending on enrollment numbers. The prototype is for



funding that is blind to income level of the school population but focuses instead on the base needs of every school to assist achievement for all students in the state.

SHB 2776 (<http://www.k12.wa.us/safs/INS/2776/2776.asp>)

**West Virginia:** No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located. West Virginia Department of Education: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/>

**Wisconsin:** Constitution requires the Common School Fund be used for “the support and maintenance of common schools, in each school district, and the purchase of suitable libraries and apparatus. . . .” Each year, the fund’s earnings are allocated to every K-12 public school district based upon the number of children aged 4 through 20 living therein (Common School Fund distributions for 2011-12 school year were \$26.54 per child). Does not apply to staffing or textbooks. Records Retention Schedule for Library Operations.

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction: <http://dpi.state.wi.us>

**Wyoming:** Every five years funding and staffing formulas are recalibrated; last recalibrated in 2010. Model details librarian staffing as 1:288 ADM in elementary schools and 1:105-630 in middle and high schools. Over and under these ADM levels, staffing is to be prorated accordingly.

Wyoming Department of Education: <http://edu.wyoming.gov/sf-docs/publications/wyoming-funding-modelguidebook.pdf?sfvrsn=4>

NOTE: NASTEMP (National Association of State Educational Media) also has info on its wiki: <<http://nastemp.wikispaces.com/State+Links>>.

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