

**ADVICE & SUGGESTED RESOURCES**  
**in Response to School Library Staffing Cuts**  
Updated May 2011

**PDE & SCHOOL LIBRARY PROGRAMS**

There are no mandates in Pennsylvania requiring school librarians or school libraries in public schools. The Pennsylvania School Code does include regulations for private elementary schools. (Source: *The Pennsylvania Code* Title 22-Education, PART II. State Board of Private Academic Schools, Chapter 55. ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (GRADES 1 TO 8) - PROGRAM OF INSTRUCTION, 55.33. [Library/media sources](http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter55/s55.33.html). Found at <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/022/chapter55/s55.33.html>)

However, if the schools in the district are using POWER Library databases and are members of the POWER Library database project, one district librarian had to be a member of ACCESS PA and have their school library records in the ACCESS PA database. The district's Superintendent did sign an agreement saying that there was a certified school librarian in charge of the collection being added to ACCESS PA. So, if that school librarian position is eliminated, the library's membership and interlibrary loan privileges in the ACCESS PA Project are revoked and all schools in the district could lose access to the POWER Library databases. This may be enough to encourage a school district to keep at least a part-time librarian at the high school.

Refer to the new *Pennsylvania Guidelines for School Library Programs* (c2011) which can be found at

[http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=space&name=Dir&psname=SearchResult&psid=0&cached=true&in\\_hi\\_userid=2&control=OpenSubFolder&subfolderID=5431&DirMode=1](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=space&name=Dir&psname=SearchResult&psid=0&cached=true&in_hi_userid=2&control=OpenSubFolder&subfolderID=5431&DirMode=1).

Or google "Pa Department of Education" and enter "school libraries" in the PDE Search Box.

**ADVICE**

Your inaction could seal the fate of staffing losses. Organize teachers, parents, and students to go to school board meetings, get signatures on a petition, ask advocates to contact the local press, or whatever you can to bring attention to this situation. If you feel that this action could jeopardize your job, "lead from the middle." In other words, provide information to others such as parents who can lead the charge. Be sure to do this on your own time and with a personal email account. Do not use school time or resources to engage in this activity. However, do not be quiet and assume that others will do something!

**GRAPHICS SPEAK LOUDER**

You need to stress in your message and the one that parents communicate on your behalf – Librarians teach our kids to find and use information, technology and Internet resources. Who is going to do that? Teachers do not have the time with everything else they must do. For example, if the School Board has decided to reduce 5 elementary library positions to one, add up the hours that the elementary librarians taught, read to, or guided resource use this school year. Show how many hours a librarian can do that if she covers 5 schools. Show them the loss of instruction – that will have the most impact. Keep your message to the instruction because no one else can do that.

**RESEARCH SUPPORT**

There is a significant amount of research showing that reading test scores are higher where there is a librarian who is teaching students. Refer to the summarized research at <http://library.mansfield.edu/impact.asp>. Also there are links there to *School Libraries Work!* and

the LRS website. This is also a good recent article  
<http://www.schoollibrarymonthly.com/articles/Lance2010-v26n9p14.html>.

## **BROCHURES**

AASL Advocacy brochures-Brand new; four different versions targeted specifically to Administrators, Parents, Teachers, and Policy Makers (school board members, legislators and other local elected officials). They can be ordered inexpensively at \$9.00 for 25 copies at <http://www.alastore.ala.org/aasl> or the pages can be downloaded freely. You can also customize the introduction panel with your school's data.  
<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslissues/brochures/advocacybrochures.cfm>.

## **AASL TOOLKITS**

Found at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/aasl/aaslissues/toolkits/toolkits.cfm>

### **Crisis Toolkit**

This toolkit is designed to assist you as you build meaningful and effective support for saving your program.

### **Parent Outreach Toolkit**

This toolkit is designed to help school librarians gain parent support in their programs.

### **School Library Program Health and Wellness Toolkit**

This toolkit provides resources to help you build stakeholder support and true advocacy.

## **PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL LIBRARY SURVEY**

It is imperative that you school libraries supply data on the current school library programs so we have baseline data. The State Board of Education is conducting the survey and beginning to investigate the equity of school library services. If your school has not submitted its data yet, get them moving. It is due April 29. FAQs and other details can be found at [www.psla.org](http://www.psla.org) The Survey Monkey link was included in the Penn Link communication to Superintendents on March 29. If this email cannot be found, the Superintendent can request another copy from [bheimbach@state.pa.us](mailto:bheimbach@state.pa.us) at PDE. The header looked like this:

**From:** Shoop, Jane [<mailto:jshoop@state.pa.us>] **On Behalf Of** Morton, Amy

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 29, 2011 12:43 PM

**Subject:** School Library Survey

## **OTHER SOURCES OF TALKING POINTS**

Stephen Krashen's "The Case for Libraries and Librarians"

[http://www.sdkrashen.com/articles/case\\_for\\_libraries/case\\_for\\_libraries.pdf](http://www.sdkrashen.com/articles/case_for_libraries/case_for_libraries.pdf)

NCLIS "Why Care About School Libraries?"

<http://www.fundourfuturewashington.org/resources/WHYCAREABOUTSCHOOLLIBRARIES-1.pdf>