

## **The Elevator Speech – Reconsider Cutting School Library Programs**

[NOTE: An “elevator speech” is a term to describe a short speech that sells an idea or promotes a position in approximately the time it takes occupants of an elevator to ride to their floor.]

As a taxpayer and resident of your school district and one who has invested her entire professional career in work devoted to improving student learning through school libraries, I urge you to reconsider cuts to school librarian staffing.

What we know about reading research is that students learn to read by reading. For children of poverty, public and school libraries are typically the only possible sources of reading material.

What we know about school library research and student achievement is that students in schools with school librarians and good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized test scores than their peers in schools without libraries. Students in better-staffed programs scored as much as 22 percent higher on standardized reading tests.

With the glut of information available via the Internet, students and teachers alike need new skills to locate, select, determine accuracy, and reliability, and ethically reuse and communicate ideas and solve problems. School librarians teach these skills. School librarians are trained experts who teach information literacy skills necessary for our students to become well-informed, productive citizens making them career and college ready.

Please do not handicap our students by eliminating school librarians! Thank you

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