



## ***Benefits of a Strong School Library Program 2011-2012***

*Pennsylvania School Librarians Association*

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- Research studies in 22 states have correlated quality school library programs to improved academic success of students regardless of the socio-economic or educational levels of the community. (For summaries, refer to *School Library Research Summarized c2011.*)
- Access to a quality school library with up-to-date resources improves the reading ability of students.
  - Reading is an accrued skill; practice is continually required.
  - A high level of literacy achievement is required in today's society to interpret a multitude of complex texts.
  - "The connection between voluntary reading and powerful literacy is that people learn to read by reading" (*Reading Matters, c2006*).
- Schools with higher PSSA reading scores have adequate library staff and up-to-date library collections, particularly at elementary schools (*Measuring up to Standards, c2000*).
- Schools that spend more money on library resources show higher PSSA reading test scores (*Measuring up to Standards, c2000*).
- Free voluntary reading will improve all critical areas of communication--comprehension, writing, vocabulary, spelling, and grammar (*The Power of Reading, c2004*).
- The school library exists to ensure that students and staff are effective users of ideas and information through access to resources, provision of instruction, and collaboration with teachers (*Empowering Learners, c2009*).
- Authentic learning experiences in which students learn by researching and doing improve academic achievement and motivation. Such opportunities are provided when teachers and librarians collaborate on instruction and utilize library resources.

Note: *School Library Research Summarized* is available online at  
<http://libweb.mansfield.edu/upload/kachel/ImpactStudy.pdf>

For more information:

Doug Francis, President PSLA  
douglas\_francis@comcast.net

Debra E. Kachel, Co-Chairperson, PSLA Legislation Committee  
dkachel@psla.org

PSLA Website: <http://www.psla.org>