



Pennsylvania School Librarians Association
Inputs for a Quality School Library Program

According to the [Pennsylvania Guidelines for School Library Programs](#) (c2011) published by the Pa Dept. of Education, school libraries that can adequately meet student learning needs should have the following supports and resources.

According to state and national guidelines, a quality school library program includes:

- A certified school librarian for every 500 students to administer the library collection, teach students in the selection and use of information for learning and literacy development, and provide professional development to teachers on resources and associated technologies.
- Paid library support staff for every 500 students to provide clerical and technical assistance.
- A centralized and accessible collection of print resources including reference, fiction, and nonfiction books and magazine titles based on 25 currently useful titles per student in elementary schools and 20 such titles per student in secondary schools.
- An average age of print resources not to exceed 10 year old; average age for science books (500s and 600s) not to exceed 5 years old.
- An automated library circulation and networked catalog of resources
- Access to networked computers within the library that are also connected to the Internet based on 45 per library or enough computers for two thirds of the seating capacity in the library, whichever is larger.
- Membership in the state-provided ACCESS PA database project which includes interlibrary loan and the POWER Library Databases
- Educationally appropriate online databases including a comprehensive, full-text periodicals database and additional reference/subject content databases that meet the academic needs of the curriculum and students (a minimum of 2 databases at the elementary level; 5 databases, secondary levels).
- An annual instructional materials budget that represents \$41 per student in elementary schools; \$45, middle schools, or \$50, high schools.