



PSLA Legislator@Your Library Campaign

Pennsylvania School Librarians Association

Purpose: To show our state legislators how school libraries help students achieve academically and improve reading and technology skills

Did you know:

1. 40% of all PA public schools are without a librarian and school library, especially among poorer communities. School libraries and school librarians are not required by the PA School Code.
2. Students in most elementary schools have limited access to the library since the librarian covers multiple school buildings.
3. School library budgets are at the discretion of each school district. There is no direct funding from state government as in other states.
4. In PA, the average age of school library books is over 25 years old and the number of books per student is well below the recommended state guidelines.

The research shows that:

- ✓ There is a strong correlation between quality school library programs and higher reading PSSA test scores.
- ✓ Access to the following can improve scores by 10 to 15%:
 - Librarians who teach students to find, evaluate and use information.
 - A quality collection of books and electronic resources
 - A commitment to open access to libraries
- ✓ These educational gains cannot be explained away by community wealth or education, poverty, or racial/ethnic demographics.
- ✓ For more details, review *School Library Research Summarized* at <http://libweb.mansfield.edu/upload/kachel/ImpactStudy.pdf>

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

PSLA is a not-for-profit, 900+ member organization, primarily composed of public, private, and parochial school librarians and library educators that promotes:

- The love of reading, the teaching of 21st Century information literacy skills, and a commitment to lifelong learning.
- Collaboration between school librarians and all other advocates of learning in our schools and communities.
- The application of best practices in school librarianship.
- The ethical use of information.
- The highest standards of professional integrity and service.