

# Check out Your School Library!

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As the school year begins, it is time to make a checklist of all the things that your child will need to be successful during the year. You have purchased the backpacks, pencils, notebooks, pens, binders, etc. You worked out any issues dealing with before school and after school. Hopefully, you have thought of everything to help your child have a great year! Did you check to see if your child's school has a quality school library program?

Every Pennsylvania student needs a quality school library to assure academic success and to address their abilities and interests. So how do you know if your child's school has a quality program? Here are the questions to ask...

Does the school library program:

- ✓ Instruct and empower your child to create and use information, and does instruction include developing your child's ability to be:
  - A critical thinker?
  - A researcher?
  - A reader?
  - A writer?
  - A speaker and listener?
- ✓ Encourage your child to read independently?
- ✓ Provide your child with quality print and digital resources?
- ✓ Supply your child with up-to-date information technologies that are available 24/7?
- ✓ Receive adequate annual funding to support these components?
- ✓ Have a full-time, certified school librarian who leads this program and teaches with other teachers to assure your child has academic success?

Researcher, Dr. Keith Curry Lance, did a study in Pennsylvania that shows students who have access to a quality school library program led by a full-time, certified school librarian makes a critical difference in boosting student achievement. The details of the study can be found at [www.paschoollibraryproject.org](http://www.paschoollibraryproject.org).

Maybe more importantly have you considered the importance of the school library in your child's ability to flourish emotionally and socially? School libraries provide an environment that allows your child to feel comfortable and relaxed, stimulated and challenged, joyful and creative. A school library allows your child's imagination to soar.

The school library program is an essential part of learning. Can you check it off your list as being there to help your child?

