



INDIANA
LIBRARY
FEDERATION

INDIANA LIBRARY FEDERATION'S POSITION 2020

Ensuring every student has access to an effective school library program



The funding requirement for \$8 per student per year for school library materials has not increased since 1989, while the cost of print and digital resources has more than doubled.

The academic success of students corresponds with the presence of an effective school library program, led by a certified librarian. The school library supports all learners. School libraries have changed with technology integration. Qualified school librarians teach students to navigate information and collaborate with fellow teachers in integrating print and digital resources into classroom and e-learning instruction.

What are the issues?

Indiana's K-12 schools operating without a certified school librarian on staff and without adequate funding to purchase and maintain school library materials are creating barriers for students. Employers and policymakers expect K-12 schools to ensure Hoosier children have the 21st century skills to succeed in college, career, and life. Yet, schools struggle to meet requirements for library staffing and materials as required in the Indiana Administrative Code (511 IAC 6.1-5-6).

Half of Hoosier students have no certified school librarian at their school. This professional void is most often found at the elementary level, a critical time for students learning to read, using print and digital resources, and navigating the Internet.

What is Indiana Library Federation's position?

Indiana Library Federation (ILF) advocates for schools to develop and maintain effective school library programs with qualified teacher librarians supported by library assistant paraprofessionals. ILF advocates for \$2 million from the state budget to be distributed to schools to support an increase of \$2 per student per year specifically for school library materials.

What is the potential impact?

A modern school library is a bustling learning commons where project-based learning takes place, and print and digital resources are a part of a student's routine. At all grade levels, students develop reading fluency and empathy for others through quality print and electronic resources. Students will have the skills to navigate the rapidly changing world around them through research, problem-solving, and media literacy. Access to library materials bridges the achievement gap, most significantly for children of color and children in poverty.

1/2 of Indiana students
have no certified teacher librarian in their school.

What is a school librarian and what do they do?

A school librarian, also called a media specialist, is a licensed teacher who has qualified to add school librarian certification to their teaching license.

Most Indiana school librarians hold a Master of Library and Information Science, which includes graduate courses in information and data systems, library management, ethics, and ways to measure learning growth in information literacy.

Within a school, teacher librarians often assume leadership responsibilities in the areas of instructional design, technology integration, distance learning, testing support, instructional coaching, co-teaching, support for E-Learning days, and support for high-need and high-ability students.

Restoring school library services during a teacher librarian shortage

Indiana is facing a teacher librarian shortage much like other specialty areas of STEM and special education teachers. The lack of qualified librarians jeopardizes the effectiveness of school libraries, but there are signs of promise. A number of school districts recently restored certified school library positions. Some schools with declining enrollments have blended responsibilities of school librarian and instructional coach. Highly effective teachers are recruited to study and test into school library certification. IUPUI's School of Informatics and Computing launched a 16-credit graduate program for school librarians who may not have resources to complete the entire master's degree in library and information science.

Libraries Transform® Indiana

Indiana Library Federation believes that libraries, with all of their modern amenities and innovations, are a smart investment, with the potential to transform communities and create a passion for lifelong learning.

Our approach to advocacy

- Indiana Library Federation is a statewide nonprofit association that is dedicated to advancing library services for the benefit of Indiana residents.
- Indiana Library Federation is nonpartisan and reflects the core values of the library field, including lifelong learning, freedom of ideas and civil discourse.
- Indiana Library Federation monitors public policies that affect all types of libraries and the people who work in and support them. ILF engages its members and stakeholders to be positioned for action in library advocacy.

Indiana's K-12 schools by the numbers*

1,135,194 students enrolled in 2019-2020

Income eligibility: **40%** free lunch **7%** reduced-price

Ethnicity: **67%** White **13%** Hispanic **12%** Black **5%** Multi-racial **3%** Asian

1:1 device adoption: **83%** districts



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