



Appropriate Staffing for School Libraries

POSITION:

The Information & Technology Educators of Minnesota (ITEM) maintains that every learner in every Minnesota public school or public charter school must have access to a well-resourced school library staffed by a full-time, licensed K-12 Library Media Specialist (LMS). An effective school library is a fundamental component of college, career, and community readiness. The success of these programs depends directly on the quality and number of professional and support personnel responsible for managing instructional programs and resources.

The following minimum school library staffing requirements define an effective school library structured to transform teaching and learning throughout the school community:

1. One or more licensed K-12 Library Media Specialists working full-time in the school library. This ensures that all students and staff have regular and sustained access to the resources and opportunities that the school library provides. As the number and needs of students increase, the number of LMS's should increase as well.
2. At least one highly trained paraprofessional who also works full-time in the school library. Support staff are essential to effective school library programs as they ensure that clerical duties are regularly carried out, allowing the licensed LMS to focus on the professional aspects of teaching and program management.
3. District-level leadership who is responsible for coordinating library curriculum, professional development, and collection standards for school library programs across the district.

A K-12 Library Media Specialist is a licensed teacher who meets PELSB qualifications under [8710.4550](#).

RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

American Association of School Librarians. (2019). *Appropriate staffing for school libraries*. American Library Association. <https://www.ala.org/aasl/statements>

American Association of School Librarians. (2018). *Definition of an effective school library*. American Library Association. <https://www.ala.org/aasl/statements>

Minnesota Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board. (2017). *Minnesota Rules, part 8710.4550: Library media specialists*. Minnesota Revisor of Statutes. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/rules/8710.4550/>

Minnesota Legislature. (2025). *Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.991: Public school libraries and media centers*. Office of the Revisor of Statutes. <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/124D.991>