

School Library Board Report

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The school library is an integral part of a child's education. The largest classroom in the school, the library is where students become effective users, creators, and communicators of information. The school librarian plays an integral role in guiding students to become life-long learners and readers. In this report I will outline the role of the school librarian, how school libraries are funded, what does ISBE say about school libraries and librarians, and the new Future Ready Library movement.

The role of the school librarian

Linking for Learning, published by the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), is a comprehensive set of standards plus implementation and assessment tools that guide school libraries and districts to exemplary school library programs. Within the publication, there are four areas of responsibility that are involved in the role of the school librarian. These include:

- Planning and Instruction
- Learning Environment
- Library Administration
- Leadership

Within in each of these areas of responsibility are the standards, how they impact students, how librarians can implement the standard, and a growth and evaluation tool which includes examples of evidence.

How are school libraries funded?

School libraries are funded by the school district. In my case, the district allocates money to each building in the district. The principal then allows for a certain amount to be put into the school library budget. The school librarian makes purchases to support the curriculum, update the collection to provide quality children's literature, and necessary supplies. In addition to the budget allocated by the principal, school libraries use state grants, miscellaneous grants, book fair proceeds, and other creative funding sources to make purchases that support a strong school library collection and program.

How are Libraries Recognized by the State?

In December 2015, President Obama signed the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) into law. ESSA replaced the No Child Left Behind Act and includes language that supports an effective school library program. The Association of Illinois School Library educators, AISLE (formerly ISLMA), created a task force to ensure that school librarians and effective school library programs were included in the Illinois state plan. Members of AISLE attended and spoke at the three rounds of ISBE listening tours to ensure our voice was heard, and happily, school libraries are included in the state plan.

Future Ready Libraries

School libraries are constantly evolving to meet the needs of our learners. In order to keep up with the needs of our learners, it is important that our libraries are [Future Ready](#). The idea of being future ready is to support student centered learning through programming, resources, collaboration, as well as several other items identified. (Please link to the Future Ready graphic to see more).