



DATE: October 9, 2026
TO: RAILS Board Advocacy Committee
FROM: Monica Harris, Executive Director
SUBJECT: 6.1 RAILS Statement of Support for School Libraries and School Librarians

At our August meeting, RAILS Data Analyst Janette Derucki joined us for a discussion on an update of the [2023 RAILS Statement on School Library Programs Staffed by Licensed School Librarians](#). This statement, a joint statement originally created and approved by the Association of Illinois School Library Educators (AISLE), is often used as a comment when RAILS is asked about its position on school library staff by media. Our August meeting involved a robust discussion with several suggestions for review and it was ultimately determined that RAILS would provide a new draft statement, incorporating these potential changes for review at our October meeting.

In the interim, the Illinois Heartland Library System also approved a resolution in support of school libraries on September 22, 2026 (you can review the statement on the [RAILS School Library Advocacy](#) page under Statements of Support), and we have incorporated some of their language and ideas in this updated draft as well.

The version of the statement that is included in your packet is intended as a draft, and we welcome your comments and updates at our October meeting. RAILS staff members Janette Derucki and Jessica Silva, both of whom have been heavily involved in the creation of the School Library Advocacy toolkit, will also be in attendance for additional comment. We look forward to your comments and suggestions at our meeting.