

A newsletter for parents about what school library programs have to offer.

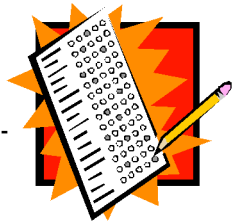
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## The School Library Link to Standardized Test Scores

The studies are in, and the results are intriguing. School libraries play a big part in raising students' scores on standardized tests. Surprised? What are some of the factors that showed a correlation between school libraries and higher test scores?

- ☞ The employment of a full-time, certified media specialist
- ☞ More open library hours and flexible scheduling of library visits
- ☞ More collaboration on learning projects between school librarian and classroom teachers
- ☞ Newer books and access to databases



### A Quick Overview of Studies

To see some specifics of a few of these landmark studies, see page 2, "The Results are In! School Libraries = Higher Test Scores." Plus, if you want to read these studies online, you can visit our Web site at [www.theschoollibrarylink.com/studies/](http://www.theschoollibrarylink.com/studies/). Discover how the school library is the link to standardized test scores! ☞

In which states have studies found correlations between school library programs and student achievement?

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| A. Alaska        | K. Missouri         |
| B. Colorado      | L. New Mexico       |
| C. Delaware      | M. North Carolina   |
| D. Florida       | N. Ohio             |
| E. Illinois      | O. Oregon           |
| F. Indiana       | P. Pennsylvania     |
| G. Iowa          | Q. Texas            |
| H. Massachusetts | R. Wisconsin        |
| I. Michigan      | S. All of the above |
| J. Minnesota     |                     |

Answer: S--All of the above!

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## THE LINK TO...

### Information Literacy Standards

In addition to supporting curriculum and testing goals, school libraries are centers for teaching and supporting information literacy for the 21st century. The American Association of School Librarians (AASL) has created several resources describing the standards that school librarians teach, such as skills of inquiry, critical thinking, drawing conclusions, and creating new knowledge (American Association of School Librarians, 2007).



1. *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner* by the American Association of School Librarians (2007).

This PDF booklet gives an overview of the information literacy standards school libraries teach to students.

2. *Standards for the 21st-Century Learner in Action* by the American Association of School Librarians (2009).

Check out the detailed examples of how students demonstrate the standards at each grade level.

To read more about these important standards, visit [www.ala.org/aasl/standards](http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards).

## The Results Are In! School Libraries = Higher Test Scores

A lot of research has been conducted since 1990 showing the positive relationship between school libraries and student achievement. Here are a few of the results specifically regarding the relationship between standardized test scores and school libraries, as summarized in the booklet, *School Libraries Work!* (Scholastic Research, 2008).

☞ In Colorado, elementary school students who had teacher-librarians that collaborated often with classroom teachers scored 21% higher on Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP) reading scores than students with the least collaborative teacher-librarians (Lance, 2000).

☞ In Florida high schools, there was a 22.2% improvement in test scores in schools with library media programs that were staffed 60 hours per week or more, over those staffed less than 60 hours (Baumbach, 2002).

☞ In Massachusetts, at each grade level, schools with library programs have higher Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) scores (Baughman, 2002).

☞ In Minnesota schools with above-average student scores on reading tests, 66.8% were schools with a full-time library media specialist. (Baxter and Smalley, 2003).

☞ In New Mexico, middle schools with the highest New Mexico Achievement Assessment Program (NMAAP) language arts scores were twice as likely to provide access to licensed databases through a school library network as the lowest scoring schools (Lance, 2002).

☞ In North Carolina, scores on standardized reading and English tests in the elementary, middle, and high schools tended to increase when school libraries had newer books, and had more open

hours with staff during the school week (Burgin and Bracy, 2003).

☞ In Texas, schools with librarians had 10% more students meet minimum Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) expectations in reading than in schools without librarians (Smith, 2001).

These results just scratch the surface! To read more about these studies and others done in more states, check out *School Libraries Work!* ([www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral\\_resources/pdf/s/slw3\\_2008.pdf](http://www2.scholastic.com/content/collateral_resources/pdf/s/slw3_2008.pdf)), or visit our Web site for a complete listing of the studies available online ([www.theschoollibrarylink.com/studies/](http://www.theschoollibrarylink.com/studies/)).

Baughman, James (2002). *School Libraries and MCAS Scores, (Preliminary Edition)*. A Paper Presented at a Symposium Sponsored by the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Simmons College. Boston, MA.

Baumbach, Donna (2002). *Making the Grade: The Status of School Library Media Centers in the Sunshine State and How They Contribute to Student Achievement*. Spring, TX: Hi Willow Research and Publishing.

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Watch for next month's issue of  
*The School Library Link to  
Creating Lifelong Readers*