

There is no federal constitutional requirement for school districts to provide school libraries or librarians. Each individual state, therefore, has the discretion to pass legislation and regulations allowing school libraries to be established, operated and maintained in schools.

This list addresses whether school librarians are required by state law or education code/regulations. Please note that where school librarians are employed, they must meet their state's stated accreditation requirements as an educator. That information is not included here. Also note that some of the following information may be incorrect or recently updated as it is difficult to find.

Alabama: Funds certified school librarians in all schools. "Instructional support units are calculated in the classification of principal, assistant principal, counselor, and librarian as recommended in the accreditation standards for elementary schools, middle schools, secondary schools, and unit schools of the commissions that comprise the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)."

Alabama Admin. Code: <http://www.alabamaadministrativecode.state.al.us/docs/ed/290-2-1.pdf>
AdvancedED. (2010, February). *Education al Practices Reference Guide for Alabama Accredited Schools*.

https://www.alsde.edu/sec/isvcs/Library%20Media/educational_practices_reference_guide_alabama.pdf

Alaska: Neither school libraries or school librarians are required by law in Alaska public schools. School districts are under local control and determine staffing and budgets. Some districts have certified school librarians but many are staffed with library aides or associates. The State of Alaska offers 2 levels of certification. Endorsement certification is offered to those who have completed a teacher prep program and a Type C or special services certification is for those who have not taught in a classroom but have a bachelor's degree and complete 6 credit hours of approved coursework. For more information and application forms: <https://education.alaska.gov/TeacherCertification>.

Source: Janet Madsen, School Library Coordinator, Alaska State Library (12/6/19)

Arizona: Does not require school libraries, but the governing board of a school district may establish, maintain, and report on its libraries to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. <http://www.azleg.gov/ars/15/00362.htm>

Arkansas: Requires public schools to budget and spend yearly for purchasing and maintaining library resources and include input from teachers, parents, and students in the acquisition of instructional materials. The role of the library media center shall support technology as a tool for learning.

Schools with more than 300 students must employ a full-time, licensed library media specialist; schools with more than 1500 students must employ two full-time library media specialists; schools with fewer than 300 students are entitled to employ a half-time, licensed school library media specialist. The library media specialist(s) shall ensure that

access to records and resource data bases shall be available to students and assist students in the development and use of research skills.

Also requires a collection of at least 3,000 volumes or at least eight (8) books per student enrolled and that each media center is equipped with one computer for administrative purposes only for multimedia/networking capacity.

Ark. Admin. Code §00.5.15.2-16.0 (2010)

http://www.arkansased.org/public/userfiles/Learning_Services/Guidance_School_Counseling/ade_282_standards_0709_current.pdf

California: School districts are required to provide library services to students and teachers but not required to employ a teacher librarian. They may contract with “county offices of education or public libraries, or using classified staff to provide certain services.” California State Auditor. [Fact Sheet, Report 2016-112](#). (2016, November 17).

Colorado: Utilizes a regional library service system that is a consortium of publicly supported libraries within a designated geographic area whose members are comprised of public libraries, school districts, academic libraries, and special libraries and cooperatives. Funding is appropriated by the Colorado General Assembly and allocated by the Colorado State Librarian or designee. More than \$5.7 million was appropriated for statewide library programs in 2010.

Colorado Department of Education: <http://www.cde.state.co.us>

Connecticut: No regulations for school library staffing or funding. The only regulations are part of New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), and these regulations affect only high schools.

NEASC: <http://www.neasc.org>

Delaware: No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located.

Delaware Department of Education: <http://www.doe.k12.de.us>

Florida: Requires district school boards, district school superintendents, and school principals of K-12 schools to establish and maintain a program of school library media services and center for all public schools in the district but requires no staffing.

FLA. STAT. ANN. §1006.28 (West 2011)

Georgia: Requires a full-time “media specialist” for schools based on student population (gr K-5 – 450; gr 6-8 – 624; gr 9-12 – 970) and at least a half-time media specialist for each school less than 450. “Adult supervision in the media center” is required for the entire instructional day.

160-5-1-.22 PERSONNEL REQUIRED. (2000).

<http://archives.gadoe.org/documents/doe/legalservices/160-5-1-.22.pdf>

Hawaii: No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located. Hawaii Department of Education:

Hawaii Department of Education: <http://doe.k12.hi.us>

Idaho: Idaho Department of Education published book and Website on developing school library programs with a philosophy of creating lifelong learners:

Idaho School Librarian's Information Manual, 2004:
<http://www.sde.idaho.gov/schoollibraries/docs/tech/slim.pdf>

Illinois: Does not mandate that schools have school librarians, but if they do, the librarians must be certified/state credentialed as a school library media specialist. Public schools can receive 75 cents per pupil as the School District Library Grant if they meet the criteria and apply. This grant is administered by the Illinois State Library not the Illinois State Board of Education.

TITLE 23: EDUCATION AND CULTURAL RESOURCES. Section 1.755.

<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/ONEARK.pdf>

School District Library Grant info <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=991&ChapterID=16>

Indiana: Requires all schools to have a media program that is an integral part of the educational program. A licensed media specialist shall supervise the media program. Each school shall spend at least eight dollars (\$8) per student per year from its 22200 account to maintain its media program.

Indiana State Board of Education; 511 IAC 6.1-5-6; filed Jan 9, 1989, 11:00 a.m.: 12 IR 1192; readopted filed Oct 12, 2001, 12:55 p.m.: 25 IR 937; readopted filed Nov 20, 2007, 11:36 a.m.: 20071219-IR-511070386RFA) IND. ADMIN. CODE tit. 511, r. 5 (2007) <http://www.in.gov/legislative/iac/pdf-iac/iac2006oldfmt/T05110/A00061.PDF?IACT=511>.

Iowa: Beginning July 1, 2006, each district shall have a qualified teacher librarian as amended to the State School Code which also requires each school district to establish a K-12 library program.

Iowa Code 256.11 Educational standards. (p.4, Section 9). Retrieved from
<https://www.legis.iowa.gov/law/iowaCode/sections?codeChapter=256&year=2016>

Kansas: No mandated requires for school librarians, but accredited schools shall provide library services

Kansas St. Dept. of Education. (2014). *Quality Performance Accreditation Regulations*. KAR 91-31-32(c) (9) <http://www.ksde.org/Portals/0/TLA/Accreditation/QPA/QPA%20REGULATIONS.pdf>

Kentucky: Requires that every elementary and secondary school provide a school library and a certified school librarian although the librarian may serve more than one school.

KS 158.102 Requirement for library media center -- Employment of librarian.

<http://www.lrc.ky.gov/Statutes/statute.aspx?id=3437>

Louisiana: Each secondary school is required to have a library and librarian(s) as follows: less than 300 students, a part-time librarian; 300 to 999, a full-time librarian; over 1,000 students, two full-time librarians.

Title 28 Education. Chapt. 17. Section 1705.

http://www.doa.la.gov/osr/lac/28v115/28v115.doc#_Toc427738642

Maine: Requires each library to maintain a collection with various mediums and electronic resources overseen by a certified media specialist who may service multiple schools. Resources should be available to enrolled students during school hours and the Comprehensive Education Plan shall address updating and maintaining library-media resources.

Chapter 125 Basic Approval Standards: <http://www.maine.gov/education/LR%20Rules%20Document.htm>

Maryland:

Requires each school system to establish a library media program run by certified school media personnel for all students and include at least a collection involving various mediums and literacy and library instruction within an adequate physical facility. School media personnel must be sure to integrate and develop the instructional programs, collaborate with teachers and provide professional development, and provide access to the outside community. Each school system should also develop a media program implementation document to be reviewed and updated regularly. The State Department of Education should periodically review the school system library media programs and submit results to the appropriate local school superintendent.

COMAR (Code of Maryland Regulations):

<http://www.dsd.state.md.us/comar/comarhtml/13a/13a.05.04.01.htm>

Massachusetts: The Education Reform Act of 1993 makes no mention of school libraries or librarians and supersedes a previous law that stated that school districts are required to establish school libraries and non-print media services including acquiring or renting library and non-print media material, resources, and appropriate equipment as well as appropriate personnel. There are no requirements or standards of any kind for school library programs in MA and no one oversees school library programs in the Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Chapter 71. An Act Establishing the Education Reform Act of 1993.

<http://archives.lib.state.ma.us/actsResolves/1993/1993acts0071.pdf>

GEN. LAWS ANN. Ch. 15, §1R (2012)

Michigan: [May 2018] The Michigan Department of Education issued a memo to all state school districts on certification requirements, a statement reminding of appropriate placements for school library staffing, and consequence of state aid deductions if libraries are not properly staffed. To date, to receive the Library Media ND endorsement one must pass the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification for Library Media, and must be recommended by a university (which happens after completion of a Master's degree in library science.)

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Cert_Regs_Library_613321_7.pdf

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Library_Media_Placements_606360_7.PDF

Three bills currently in legislation to strengthen school library programs and staffing (HB [5909](#), HB [5910](#), and HB [5911](#)).

Minnesota: In 1996, Minnesota legislators eliminated a statute that required districts to have a minimum of one librarian per school. There is no requirement for school libraries either. Burnette, D. (2010, December 11). School librarians: Headed for the history books. <http://www.startribune.com/school-librarians-headed-for-the-history-books/111702274/>

Mississippi: Requires school districts to employ in each school a licensed librarian or media specialist who devotes no more than one-fourth of the workday to library/media administrative activities. If student enrollment is 499 or less, a half-time licensed librarian or media specialist is required. If the student enrollment is 500 or more, a full-time licensed librarian or media specialist is required. (p.15)

MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY STANDARDS 2016

<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/docs/accreditation-library/ms-public-school-acct-stds-2016-3-23-17.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Missouri: There are no requirements although recent legislative bills are pending. *Missouri House Bill 577*. (2017). <https://legiscan.com/MO/text/HB577/2017>.

Montana: Requires certified teaching librarian staff and physical facilities based on student population. Residents may also use the school libraries as long as such use does not interfere with school use. Students are to be taught media and literacy skills and skills to interact responsibly in a global society. Collaboration with teachers and long range planning for the collection and school curriculum should reflect the standards being taught to students and reflect the authentic contributions of Montana's American Indians and other ethnic and minority groups.

Montana Code Annotated 2009: 20-7-202. History: En. 75-7517 by Sec. 388, Ch. 5, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7517. 20-7-203. 75-7518 by Sec. 389, Ch. 5, L. 1971; R.C.M. 1947, 75-7518. 10.55.1801

Nebraska: School librarians are required in all accredited schools and are also required to have both a teaching certificate and additional school library endorsement. Librarian staffing is based on ratios to students (part-time, under 500; full-time over 500; more than 1 over 750 students).

Nebraska Depart. of Education: Regulations and Procedures for the Accreditation of Schools. Rule 10 007.04A (2015, August 1)

https://www.education.ne.gov/LEGAL/webrulespdf/CLEANRule10_2015.pdf (p.24)

Nevada: No legislation or regulations. However, pending legislation SB 143 would require each public school in a school district to establish and maintain a school library staffed by a certified school librarian (as of March 2017 in Senate Education Committee).

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/Session/79th2017/Reports/history.cfm?ID=382>

New Hampshire: Each school must have a library media specialist and there must be a written plan for the upkeep and cataloguing of the collection.

<http://www.nhpolicy.org/reports/citizensguide.pdf>

New Jersey: All school districts shall provide library-media services that are connected to classroom studies in each school building... “Each school district shall provide these library-media services under the direction of a certified school library media specialist.” However, districts implement library services at their discretion often with one professional serving multiple buildings. A bill proposed in 2017, if passed, would require a certified librarian in schools as follows: a part-time librarian for less than 300 students; a full-time librarian for between 300 and 1,499 students; two full-time librarian for over 1,500 students).

N.J.A.C.6A:13-2.1. Programs and Practices to Support Student Achievement.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/code/current/title6a/chap13.pdf>

A4500 School Librarians for Students. https://njla.org/sites/default/files/schoollibs_0217rev.pdf

New Mexico: Established a school library material fund in the state treasury from which the State Department of Education may distribute money to school districts, state institutions and governmentally controlled schools to pay for the cost of purchasing school library material. Funding is obtained through appropriations, gifts, grants, donations, and bequests and distributed through state administration.

N.M. STAT. ANN. §22-15C-5 (West 2006)

New York: Currently, each district is required to have a certified library media specialist, at the secondary school level, not at the elementary level. Although the state allocates \$6.25/student designated for school library materials, districts often choose how to spend it. In recent years, NYLA has been attempting to add elementary librarians to their regulations. In 2012, the New York Board of Regents accepted *2020 Vision and Plan for Library Services* that implements curriculum aligned with the Common Core State Standards, promotes instructional leadership and access to the library and encourages flexible scheduling. (New York Board of Regents, 2012)

Vision 2020 recommendations: <http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/adviscns/rac/2020final/priorities.htm>

NYCRR TITLE 8 –EDUCATION - §91. Statutory authority: Education Law, § 207, Last reviewed 3/15/10

http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/libdev/excerpts/finished_reqs/912.htm

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/technology/library/newyorkconsolidatedlaws.html>

<https://www.nyla.org/images/nyla/files/91.2-EmploymentOfASchoolLibraryMediaSpecialist.pdf>

North Carolina: There are no mandates for “school library media coordinators” in this state. However, staffing recommendations are included in both district and school Digital Learning Progress Rubrics ([L2 Personnel](#)) and NC's *IMPACT Guidelines*. Library Media Personnel.

http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/EnactedLegislation/Statutes/PDF/BySection/Chapter_115c/GS_115C-265.pdf

IMPACT: Guidelines for North Carolina Media and Technology Programs. (2005).

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/dtl/resources/impact/3impact-revision.pdf>

North Dakota: No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located.

North Dakota Department of Public Instruction: <http://dpi.state.nd.us/>

Ohio: Extensive guidelines on school library management have been developed to ensure students can meet Ohio's Education Standards. Nothing mandated.

Ohio Department of Education:

<http://education.ohio.gov/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?page=3&TopicRelationID=1703&ContentID=13952&Content=129210>

Oklahoma: Requires a certified school library media specialist in every school district and a half-time certified library specialist in schools with student enrollment lower than 300; full-time if enrollment is over 500. Collections should include various current formats, and promote professional development among teachers. An ongoing evaluation program should determine if the qualifications are being met.

O.A.C. §210:35-9-71 (1992), 210:35-3-121-4, 126-128.

http://sde.ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/Library%20Media%20Services_2.pdf

Oregon: Legislation adopted in 2009 under "Continuous Improvement Plans" requires school districts to identify goals toward implementing a "strong school library program." These goals concern management, staff, K-12 library skills, equitable access, development and maintenance of library collections, and staff development. However, school librarians are not mandated.

Oregon Association of School Libraries, OASL on Strong School Library Programs:

<http://oasl.memberclicks.net/hb-2586>

Pennsylvania: Mandates libraries in many educational settings, but not in public schools. For example, the state mandates libraries in: (i) private, not public, elementary and secondary schools (22 Pa Code 55.33, 57.21, 59.23); (ii) hospitals (28 Pa Code 101.31 and Chapter 145); (iii) clinical laboratories (28 Pa Code 5.32); (iv) practical nursing programs (49 Pa Code 29.211); (v) barber schools (49 Pa Code 3.73); (vi) cosmetology schools (49 Pa Code 7.130); (vii) the General Assembly (101 Pa Code 3.38); (viii) institutions of higher education (22 Pa Code 31.41); and (ix) juvenile facilities and adult prisons (based on court orders). Since 2016, bills have been introduced in the PA House to require certified school librarians in every public school but none have passed yet.

<http://www.psla.org/membership/psla-legislation>

Rhode Island: Mandate for school librarians changed several years ago and is now a non-specific requirement for high quality libraries in the Basic Education Program.

Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

http://www.ride.ri.gov/Regents/Docs/RegentsRegulations/BEP_FINAL_070110.pdf

South Carolina: Requires PK through grade 5 schools with fewer than 375 students to provide at least half-time services of a certified library media specialist. Schools with 375 or more students must provide the services of a full-time certified library media specialist. For Grades 6–12, depending on student enrollment numbers, schools must provide varying amounts of student access to a professional library media specialist.

Under “43-231. Defined Program K-5” and “Basic Program/Curriculum for Grades 6-8” and “43-234. Defined Program, Grades 9-12” From: 43-205. (Statutory Authority: S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-5-60 (2004), 20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq. (2002) [No Child Left Behind Act of 2001], and S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-59-10 et seq. (Supp. 2005))
South Carolina Legislature: <http://www.scstatehouse.gov/coderegs/c043.php>

South Dakota: Does not require certified school librarians in schools; but some school districts, however, do. Requirements are in place for a library endorsement certificate.
South Dakota Department of Education. <http://www.doe.sd.gov>

Tennessee: Requires one full-time library information specialist for K-8 schools with student enrollment of 550 or more and high schools with an enrollment ranging from 300 to less than 1,500 students; requires one half-time library information specialist for K-8 schools with 400-549 students and high schools with enrollments fewer than 300 students; and requires a staff member designated by the principal to serve as the library information coordinator for K-8 schools with fewer than 400 students.
0520-01-03-.07 Library Information Center, Requirement F. (2013).
<file:///C:/Users/Deb/Downloads/tsboe%20lic%20rule-revised%202014.pdf>

Texas: “In Texas, school districts have discretionary authority over school library staffing and programs. Neither state nor federal statute requires that a school librarian be on every campus. State regulations only require that schools built after January 2004 must have a school library (See commissioner's facility rule below). Additionally, state law requires that, if a district does report the presence of a school librarian, that librarian must be certified.”
Texas Library Assn. Standards and Laws. <http://www.txla.org/standards-laws#school> Updated 3/17/17

Utah: Along with other criteria, each school, regardless of size, should have one certified library media specialist with more as enrollment increases. Budgets shall be sufficient to guarantee that the collection, print and non-print, is renewed annually at a minimum rate of 5%. Additionally, one-time federal, state, or grant funds may supplement the school library media budget, but must not supplant ongoing budgeted district and/or local funding.
<http://www.schools.utah.gov/CURR/library/Resources/Standards.aspx>

Vermont: “The services of a certified library media specialist shall be made available to students and staff. Schools with over 300 students shall have at least one full-time library media specialist and sufficient staff to implement a program that supports literacy, information and technology standards. Schools with fewer than 300 students shall employ a library media specialist on a pro-rata basis.”
Vermont State Board of Education Manual of Rules and Practices Series 2000 – Education Quality Standards. p.9. <http://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-state-board-rules-series-2000.pdf>

Virginia: Requires a library media specialist depending on student enrollment, beginning with a half-time librarian for up to 299 students in elementary, middle and high schools and a full-time librarian if enrollment is more than 300 students.
2016 Standards of Quality: §§ 22.1-253.13:1 through 22.1-253.13:10 of the Code of Virginia.
http://www.doe.virginia.gov/administrators/superintendents_memos/2016/176-16a.pdf (Librarians p.11; clerical p. 12)

Washington: Teacher-librarians are not required and remain the discretion of each district at this time. However, since 2009, having teacher-librarians and library resources have been part of the staffing and materials “lump sum” funding for basic education allocated to each district by the state. Pending education funding bills call for a “prototypical school” model that includes “teacher librarians at .663 librarians per 1,000 students at the elementary level; .519 at the middle school level; .523 at the high school level.” However, at this time, the bills have not passed, although Washington is committed, through a judicial ruling, to dramatically increase funding for education.
Chapter 27, K-12 EDUCATION--LIBRARY INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS
EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/24/2015 <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Session%20Laws/Senate/5294-S.SL.pdf>
Revised Code of Washington (RCW) > [Title 28A](#) > [Chapter 28A.150](#) > [Section 28A.150.260](#).
<http://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.150.260>

West Virginia: No legislation or regulations regarding school libraries located. West Virginia Department of Education: <http://wvde.state.wv.us/>

Wisconsin: “Provide library media services to all pupils as follows: to pupils in grades kindergarten through 6, library media services which are performed by or under the direction of licensed library and audiovisual personnel; and to pupils in grades 7 through 12, library media services which are performed by licensed library and audiovisual personnel.” Chapter PI 8 SCHOOL DISTRICT STANDARDS. (2016, March).

Link to legislative documents: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/pi/8/01/2/h
Confirmed by Monica Treptow, School Library Media Education Consultant, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (12/6/19)

Wyoming: Every five years funding and staffing formulas are recalibrated; last recalibrated in 2010. Model details librarian staffing as 1:288 ADM in elementary schools and 1:105-630 in middle and high schools. Over and under these ADM levels, staffing is to be prorated accordingly.

Model Element 12: Librarians and Librarian Media Technicians (2015, August 26).
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us/InterimCommittee/2015/SSRRpt0903AppendixG.pdf>

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