



Monday, July 27, 2015

Dear Legislator:

On behalf of the members of the South Carolina Association of School Librarians (SCASL), it is my pleasure to share with you the results of a ground-breaking study conducted for SCASL by the RSL Research Group, led by principal investigator Keith Curry Lance. The findings from the study revealed that school librarians and libraries contribute significantly to student achievement in South Carolina's schools. Most notably, Reading and Writing Scores improved on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) and High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Tests.

Specifically, both English Language Arts and Writing results tended to be better for schools:

- with better-funded libraries,
- whose students were served by at least one full-time school librarian and at least one part-time library assistant.

An additional finding was that schools that provided students with access to computers in their libraries were more likely to excel in English Language Arts.

These correlations persisted, despite differences among students in gender, race/ethnicity, disability status, and poverty status (i.e., subsidized and free meals eligibility).

As data from the SCASL Impact Study reveals, having access to a full-time, certified school librarian and adequate library resources, contributes to the success of South Carolina's students. For additional information about the study, including a video and an info graphic, please visit the SCASL website – IMPACT Study <http://www.scasl.net/the-south-carolina-impact-study>.

This year, two of the indicators on the SC Annual Library Media Specialists Survey were reported on the State's School Report Cards for 2015. (number of items in the collection and collection age) The indicators are important opportunity measures that tie in directly with the Read to Succeed Act.

Thank you very much for your time, and for your efforts to support student achievement in South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Tazerouti, President
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