



Monday, July 27, 2015

Dear Administrator:

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. 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,
- that provided students with access to computers in their libraries

In addition, relationships between test results and survey responses from administrators, teachers, and librarians revealed that schools were more likely to succeed on state tests when their school culture:

- valued and implemented communication between principal and librarian,
- allowed for instructional collaboration between teachers and librarian,
- provided flexible access to the school library to meet instructional needs,
- used the expertise of the school librarian to provide professional development for teachers.

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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