

## **THE VALUE OF SCHOOL LIBRARIANS, SCHOOL LIBRARIES, AND SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS**

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### **School librarians empower students with lifelong learning skills.**

School librarians:

- Teach students how to build knowledge from information.
- Teach students how to think and inquire – to ask good questions, find high-quality information from different points of view, and draw their own conclusions from the evidence.
- Motivate student to discover the world through reading.
- Teach students to be safe and responsible online.

### **School libraries impact student achievement and prepare students for college and career.**

*“Based on the conclusions from the research cited in the brief, it is clear that school libraries play an important role in student achievement, curriculum development, and instruction. Through political and fiscal state support, effective school library programs can serve as consistent drivers for student achievement in times of constant change and churning educational reform.”*

New York Comprehensive Center. (2011). *Informational Brief: Impact of School Libraries on Student Achievement*. Available at:

[http://nycomprehensivecenter.org/initiatives/inits\\_elearn/resources](http://nycomprehensivecenter.org/initiatives/inits_elearn/resources)

### **School library systems provide essential support to school librarians and libraries.**

Last year, the 41 school library systems provided:

- State leadership in effective school library program development:
  - School Library Media Program Evaluation Rubric developed for NYSED
  - K-12 Information Fluency Continuum
  - Librarian Evaluation Instrument
  - Alignment of Information Fluency Continuum with NYS Common Core Learning Standards

- Professional development to school librarians throughout the state (56,444 participants).
- Resource sharing (499,824 resources shared through library system interlibrary loan).
- Maintenance of union/shared catalogs (16,514,675 records in library system union catalogs).
- Consulting and technical services (an average of 1600 contacts every day that schools were in session).

**Issues for School Librarians, School Libraries, and School Library Systems:**

- School library closures – increasing inequity of access to instruction and resources
- Budget cuts to school library systems – 23% cut since 2007
- Support for K-12 information fluency instruction and assessment within the recently adopted Common Core Learning Standards

**Legislative Action Steps requested:**

- Support the restoration of Library Aid to match the proposed increase in School Aid (an increase of 4%) to restore a modest level of funding to school library systems.
- Support amendment of Education Law 814 [Senate Bill 6479 (Farley)/Assembly Bill 9318 (Reilly)] to encourage public schools to teach digital literacy and include school libraries as integral to digital literacy instruction.