

The Michigan PTA has worked with the Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) in the past. We appreciate their support and presence at both prior Conventions and Advocacy Days. They have asked that we share with our membership about their Advocacy Day as part of the Michigan Library Association on April 20th.

The Michigan PTA and the Michigan Library Association (MLA) have many of the same goals and priorities: early childhood literacy; access to certified librarians; inclusive practices for all populations; access to literary materials; and more. **If you are available and want to support them in their advocacy efforts, please go to: <https://www.milibraries.org/advocacy-day>.** Here you can register and/or learn more about what MLA and MAME are all about. They have short videos that go along with each of their talking points and explain why they are having and Advocacy Day.

To read more about their efforts to get certified librarians into Michigan's school please read the following summary.

If you have any further questions please email Carin Meyer at fedlegchair@michiganpta.org or call the Michigan PTA at (734)975-9500.



Effective School Libraries Essential to Student Success



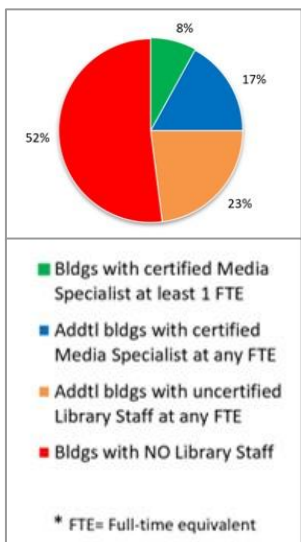
The academic success of students corresponds with the presence of an effective school library led by a certified school librarian. School librarians are teachers who:

- Provide equitable access to diverse resources in their schools
- Increase student achievement with focus on reading achievement by supporting and teaching reading and inquiry learning
- Teach media literacy, research, and digital citizenship skills to prepare students for college and career
- Lead and support technology integration in their schools

What are the issues?

The pandemic underscored the critical need for certified school librarians. Administrators, teachers, students, and families rely on school librarians for access to e-resources, lessons on accessing, evaluating, and analyzing resources and support for technology. School libraries also provide students a safe place and support the social-emotional learning of all students.

Michigan's K-12 Schools operating without a certified school librarian on staff and without adequate funding to purchase and maintain school library materials are creating barriers for students. Employers and policy makers expect K-12 Schools to ensure that students have the 21st century skills needed to succeed in career, college, and life.



What is the solution?

Every student in Michigan deserves equitable access to an effective school library staffed by a certified school librarian. Legislation similar to last session's school library bills (HB4392, HB4393, HB4394) along with grant or other designated funding for school libraries is critical to the success of all students in Michigan.

What is the potential impact?

A modern school library is a bustling in-person and digital learning commons where project-based learning takes place and print and digital resources are a part of a student's routine. At all grade levels, students develop reading fluency and empathy for others, as well as the critical thinking skills to navigate the rapidly changing world around them through research, problem-solving, and media literacy. Access to library materials bridges the achievement gap, most significantly for children of color and children in poverty.

75% of Michigan's Students Do NOT Have Access to an Effective School Library

Michigan is ranked 47th in the Nation In Support for Effective School Libraries

What is a certified school librarian and what do they do?

School librarians, also called Library Media Specialists in Michigan, are teachers who hold a Michigan Teaching certificate with the Library Media (ND) endorsement. They typically have a Masters in Library and Information Science and are uniquely qualified to carry out five roles: teacher, literacy and reading expert, information specialist, program administrator, and leader.

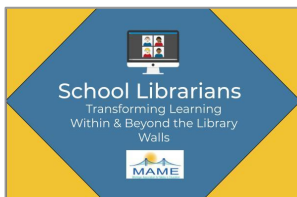
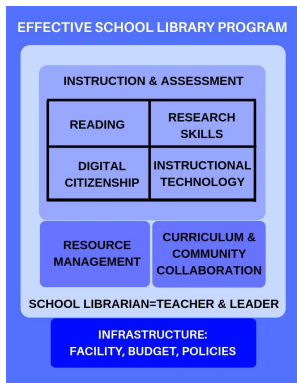
- **Teacher** - Delivers instruction on reading, accessing resources, information/media literacy, digital citizenship, and technology tools.
- **Literacy and Reading Expert** - Has training in youth and YA literature and collection development to select and promote materials in multiple formats to support learning, personal growth, and enjoyment.
- **Information specialist** - Selects, curates, promotes and uses physical, digital, and virtual collections of resources ethically and equitably to support the needs of the diverse learning community.
- **Program administrator** - Plans, develops, implements, and evaluates the school library programs, resources, and services in support of the mission of their schools according to the ethics and principles of library science, education, management, and administration.
- **Leader** - Leads a strong reading culture within their schools and advocates for their students' access to diverse resources and positive learning environments. Provides professional development for teachers. Connects with administrators, teachers, and the community including their community library to provide integrated resources and services to all students and the school community.

My community is served by a public library. Why do we also need a school library?

- There is a strong relationship between the presence of a full-time, certified school librarian in a school and academic achievement.
- School librarians are *both* teacher and librarian.
- School librarians create a welcoming and safe environment with immediate access to resources for students *within* their schools.
- It is a matter of equity - equity of access and equity of experience. It should not be dependent on a student's zip code or a parent's ability to support access.

Who is the Michigan Association for Media in Education?

The Michigan Association for Media in Education (MAME) is the professional association for school librarians in Michigan. The general purpose of the association is to increase student achievement by supporting high quality school libraries. MAME is affiliated with the American Association of School Librarian (AASL) & the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE).



MAME is a volunteer organization whose members are school librarians- both active and retired.



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