

AkASL



AkASL is the Alaska Association of School Librarians, an independent professional organization which is also a roundtable of the Alaska Library Association (AkLA) and an affiliate of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). This professional organization represents the interests of school librarians throughout Alaska.

AkASL's objectives are to promote and improve library information services to students and to provide continuing education opportunities for library information staff. Our mission is to advance a high standard for the school library profession and the library/information programs in the schools of Alaska.

AkASL sponsors the statewide *Battle of the Books* reading program, the annual *Puffin Award*, *School Librarian of the Year Award*, *Linda K. Barrett Service Award*, and the *Administrators' Pat on the Back Awards*

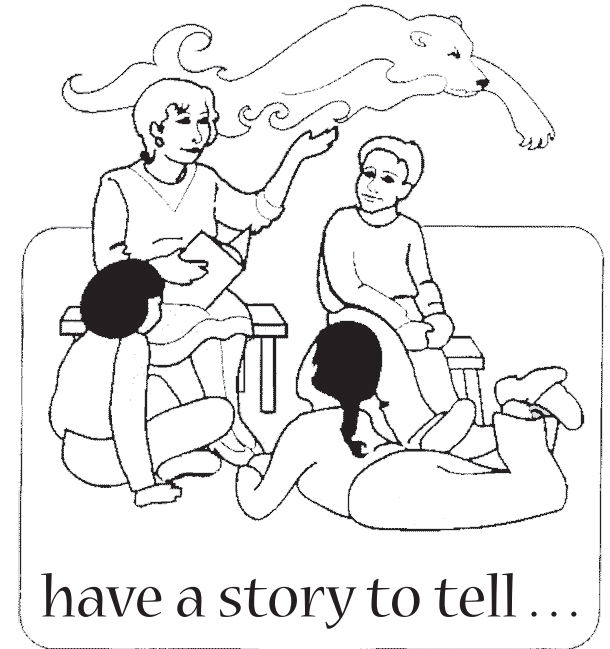
AkASL developed the *Alaska Standards for School Media Programs* which were adopted by the State Board of Education and prepared *Guidelines for Alaskan School Library Information Programs* to update that program.

AkASL supports effective statewide school library information programs to ensure that all Alaskan students have access to information they need to compete and succeed in their world today and tomorrow.

For more information contact

Alaska Association of School Librarians
[President???]

Alaska School Libraries



Students who attend schools with **effective library media programs** show significant improvement in reading, study skills, and life-long learning habits.

Effective school library media programs require adequate resources, technology, staffing, and space.

Alaska's School Library
Information Programs
Need Your Support.

"If students are to be the "workers", they absolutely require richly endowed libraries and the time to use them." *Theodore R. Stine*



Resources and Technology

We need to ensure affordable and equal access to information for all Alaska communities through local collections and resource sharing using technological networks and distance delivery systems.

WHERE WE ARE

- Currently there is a great disparity in access to information and collections in school library information centers throughout the state.
- Many rural schools are isolated from information that is available throughout the state and the nation.
- Larger schools do not always use technology to share their resources.

WHAT WE NEED

- Earmarked funding for the acquisition and maintenance of quality, up-to-date resources and equipment.
- Funding for information access beyond the school through networking and electronic retrieval systems.
- Grant monies and subsidies to schools that adhere to at least the minimum requirements for school library information collections and technology.

Quotes below from *Lance, et. al. The Impact of School Library Information Centers on Academic Achievement*. Hi Willow Publishing 1993.

"Students who have access to a rich multimedia resource collection and are taught electronic information retrieval skills demonstrate improved test scores and retention of learning."

Alaska students depend on effective school library information programs!
You can help build and maintain effective school libraries through your support for library funding.

Staffing

We need to ensure that all students have access to professionally trained school library information staff and to support staff to meet the needs of the student enrollment.

WHERE WE ARE

- Alaska provides only an endorsement for school library staff rather than certification.
- School districts are not required to hire library information professionals to staff their school libraries or district library centers.
- School districts are not required to follow standardized criteria for hiring support staff for school library information centers.

WHAT WE NEED

- State certification requirements for school library information specialists.
- Certified library information specialists to staff school library information programs in larger schools and district library centers.
- The appropriate number of clericals and technical staff as outlined in national and state guidelines for school library information centers in larger schools.
- Trained clerical staff to manage small school libraries supervised by a professional librarian at the district level.

"Students who attend schools with library programs staffed by full-time professionals show significant improvement in reading chores and study skills."

Space

We need to ensure that every school has an adequate library information facility to accommodate the reading and information needs of every student.

WHERE WE ARE

- Many schools, especially those in rural areas, have no library information center. Students have no place to go to find organized, current information for report writing or to pursue individual interests.
- Without a library information facility to explore, it is less likely that students will develop a love for language, books, and learning.

WHAT WE NEED

- Inviting and functional school library information facilities that adhere to the guidelines of the Alaska Association of School Librarians, Northwest Accreditation Standards, and Information Power; guidelines for school library media programs (a national standards guide).
- Grant monies and subsidies for districts that adhere to at least the minimum requirements for library information space.

"Students who have access to on-site library information centers have access to a wider range of resources and guidance in how to use and apply the information they find."

**Alaska's students
depend on you!**