

## Take Action to Support School Librarians

Despite our meeting with IDOE and presence and input at DOE input meetings, **school librarians are NOT included** in the [Draft Consolidated State Plan Under the Every Student Succeeds](#) Act (ESSA).

Please **take action to support effective school libraries** by submitting comments, and asking parents, school personnel, your public library partners and all who care about school libraries to do the same.

### HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS BY THE DEADLINE, THURSDAY, JULY 20:

- 1) **Review the [draft plan](#)**, particularly sections for Supporting Excellent Educators and Supporting All Students.
- 2) **Submit comments by completing a survey** on any or all sections of the plan.
  - a. Long-term goals – What comments do you have on their goals of increasing English and Math for all sub-groups by 50%, increasing graduation rate for all sub-groups by 50%, improving 63% of English language learners language proficiency within 6 years. ***If you only have 2 minutes, note how effective school libraries have direct connection to academic achievement.***
  - b. Consultation – What comments might you have on who was consulted? (*we might applaud the wide array of input*)
  - c. Assessments – What comments do you have on the proposed plan for assessments? Note that the survey starts becoming much more detailed.
  - d. Accountability and School Improvement – What comments do you have? The questions are very detailed.
  - e. **Supporting Excellent Educators** – What comments? This is where you ***might be able to comment about role of school librarians***, i.e. p. 66-68 how school librarians address specific learning needs of high ability students, students with disabilities, English language learners and/or middle of p.70 how Title II, Parts A and B allows fund to be used for school librarians to provide professional development to fellow teachers to meet the needs district-wide; In the general comments, you might include this allowable use of funds from Title II.
  - f. **Supporting All Students** – What comments? This is where you ***might be able to comment about role of school libraries/librarians***, i.e. many student sub-groups; p90 – eLearning or p105 technology integration- how Title V, Part A allows funds to be used to support this function - “school librarians increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology, allowing equitable resources for all students”; perhaps include how important the school library and computers are to students with no access to broadband (1 in 6 Hoosiers lives in area without broadband) or provide special supports for high ability students, students with disabilities and English language learners.
- 3) After submitting your survey, consider asking three others (parents, staff, friends, colleagues) to do the same. For those of you with strong school library programs, you might remind your administrator that School librarians may provide professional development of fellow educators, making cost effective use of limited taxpayer funds if school libraries/librarians are in the plan.)

For more information, contact Lucinda Nord, Executive Director, [exec@ifonline.org](mailto:exec@ifonline.org).



*Promoting all libraries in Indiana and fostering the professional growth of our members*

## **How Indiana's School Libraries Advance and Support Educational Outcomes**

1. **Academics** – School librarians provide supports to teachers in planning curriculum aligned to standards, incorporating digital and print resources. School librarians serve as instructional coach as well as content source curator.
2. **Assessments** –
  - a. Libraries offer areas of games, trivia and electronic tools to help practice for assessments, which is especially important for disadvantaged learners who may have language or socio-economic barriers.
  - b. Librarians prepare assessments with rubrics and other items to support learning opportunities.
  - c. School librarians provide one-on-one support for students who are needing help in preparing for assessments.
3. **Accountability systems** – Some school librarians maintain student databases for English and reading, providing data for teacher and school accountability. School librarians provide resource lists of texts aligned with standards to help with school accountability.
4. **Effective Teachers** – School librarians serve as instructional coaches to fellow educators, helping them incorporate digital and print resources into the classroom more effectively and helping align their assignments and materials to the standards.
5. **School supports** –
  - a. School libraries and certified librarians are critical to helping students who are reluctant readers or ELL.
  - b. School libraries provide a safe space for students to study and explore ideas.
  - c. Some school libraries operate or staff literacy programs.
  - d. School libraries are critical to students of families who live in poverty or on the edge of poverty, as today's students need access to the electronic tools to get assignments and projects completed.
6. **School improvement activities** – School librarians provide professional development to teachers, especially in integrating technology and standards-aligned materials. The School librarian provides materials to teachers that help to meet School Improvement Goals.

**Every Student Succeeds Act** – ESSA includes multiple provisions that include school libraries and certified librarians in implementation. School librarians are allowable uses of funds in the professional development and school improvement strategies allowed under ESSA. School librarians may provide professional development of fellow educators, making cost effective use of limited taxpayer funds.

### **External Support for Effective School Libraries –**

- Employers in our community are desperate for graduates with basic skills that are developed in the library.
- College and university faculty are sharing how students arrive without basic reading, exploration and research skills they would learn in the library.