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News Release

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Michigan State Board of Education Passes Resolution Supporting School Libraries

The Michigan State Board of Education passed a resolution in support of school libraries at the October 14th Board meeting. The resolution states that strong school libraries staffed by certified school librarians are critical to student success.

Studies in over 20 states including Michigan show that school libraries with full-time teaching school librarians have a high impact on increasing student achievement regardless of socio-economic or educational levels of the community. Currently, Michigan ranks 46th nationally in ratio of students per school librarian. In addition, Michigan is one of only six states that has suffered a loss in reading achievement between 2003 and 2013 based on 4th grade National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) scores. Thus, it is critical that Michigan increases support for libraries staffed by certified school librarians in our schools.

RESOLUTION

The Michigan State Board of Education recognizes that school library media centers provide Michigan's students and staff equitable access to print and digital resources critical to supporting 21st century teaching and learning.

The Board further recognizes that certified library media specialists serve a critical role in increasing student achievement by supporting, collaborating, and co-teaching with classroom teachers in reading development, in integrating information and technology literacy skills into the content curriculum, and in meeting the expectations for student research set forth in the Common Core State Standards.

The Library of Michigan, an office of the Michigan Department of Education, has developed the "SL21 Measurement Benchmarks for Michigan School Libraries for 21st Century Schools" and calls for school administrators and school librarians to use the SL21 measures to assess the quality of school library programs in individual buildings.

The Board supports these efforts and supports a call for all elementary and secondary students to have ready access to a library in their school with appropriate resources, programming and certified staff.