

School Libraries & Student Achievement

School Librarians are Linked to Improved Standardized Reading Test Scores

Studies conducted over the past two decades, both in Colorado and nationwide, show that **students in schools with endorsed librarians score better on standardized achievement tests in reading**, compared with students in schools without endorsed librarians.



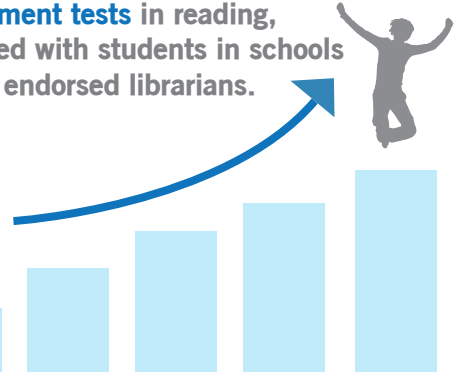
School



Librarian



Improved Reading Scores



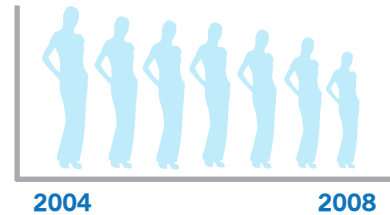
This increase in scores exists regardless of:

Student Poverty Level¹



In a Colorado study, the presence of school librarians positively impacted students' standardized reading scores even **when controlling for student poverty** (free and reduced-cost meal status).

Overall Staffing Losses²



In a national study, **even if schools had overall staff declines between 2004 and 2008, students' standardized reading scores were better in schools that maintained or gained a librarian during this time period.**

What other school library characteristics are associated with better test scores?

School Librarians Teaching Information Literacy Skills to Students³



Staffed by Endorsed Librarian¹



Collaborative Planning Between School Librarians & Teachers^{3, 4}



Extended Library & Staff Hours³



School Librarians Providing In-Service Training to Teachers³



Larger & Newer Collections^{3, 4, 5}



More Student Visits⁵



Flexible Scheduling³



Higher Expenditures^{3, 4, 5}



See www.lrs.org/data-tools/school-libraries/impact-studies/ for a list of school library impact studies.

1. Lance, K. C., & Hofschire, L. (2012). *Change in school librarian staffing linked with change in CSAP reading performance, 2005 to 2011*. Retrieved from http://www.lrs.org/documents/closer_look/CO4_2012_Closer_Look_Report.pdf

2. Lance, K.C., & Hofschire, L. (2011, September 1). Something to shout about: New research shows that more librarians means higher reading scores. *School Library Journal*. Retrieved from http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slij/printissue/currentissue/891612-427/something_to_shout_about_new.html.csp

3. Lance, K. C. (2000). *How school librarians help kids achieve standards: The second Colorado study*. Salt Lake City: Hi Willow Research and Publishing.

4. Lance, K. C. (1993). *The impact of school library media centers on academic achievement*. Salt Lake City: Hi Willow Research and Publishing.

5. Francis, H.B., Lance, C. K., & Lietzau Z. (2010). *School librarians continue to help students achieve standards: The third Colorado study (2010)*. Retrieved from: http://www.lrs.org/documents/closer_look/CO3_2010_Closer_Look_Report.pdf