

MASL Position Statement on Professional Responsibilities and the PRAXIS

School libraries are essential to the development of learning skills

School libraries provide equitable physical and intellectual access to the resources and tools required for learning in a warm, stimulating, and safe environment. School librarians collaborate with others to provide instruction, learning, strategies, and practice in using the essential learning skills needed in the 21st century.

The effectiveness of the school library as an integral part of the teaching and learning community in a school depends on the quality of the professional personnel responsible for the program. A professional in each school building who is well-educated and highly motivated is critical to the success of students and the school community.

To ensure that school library professionals go beyond meeting minimum Missouri certification requirements and are adequately prepared, the Missouri Association of School Librarians recommends the PRAXIS test be coupled with coursework at an American Library Association (ALA), National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC), or North Central Association of Colleges (NCAC) accredited program of study so that all library media specialists work toward and meet full certification requirements. Programs in Missouri are described in the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education *Library & Media Digest* Volume 1, Number 2 – December 2008 which may be viewed at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/lmc/documents/DigestDec08.pdf>.

These programs are aligned with the national American Library Association and American Association of School Librarians standards for the initial preparation of school library media specialist at:

http://www.ala.org/ala/aasl/aasleducation/schoollibrarymed/ala-aasl_slms2003.pdf

School Librarians help students

1. Inquire, think critically, and gain knowledge
2. Draw conclusions, make informed decisions, apply knowledge to new situations, and create new knowledge
3. Share knowledge and participate ethically and productively as members of our democratic society
4. Pursue personal and aesthetic growth

Sources:

- Pennsylvania School Librarians Association Position Statement on Professional Responsibilities in Pennsylvania Libraries
- American Association of School Librarians Standards for the 21st-Century Learner 2007
- Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Library & Media Digest Volume 1, Number 2 – December 2008

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