

RESOLUTION

On Books and Other Print Materials for Classrooms and School Library Media Centers

WHEREAS, there exists a body of research demonstrating that children who have ready access—including electronic—to varied sources of print materials in their classrooms, in school library media centers, in town library media centers, and at home, and who are allowed to self-select to read, will read more for pleasure and for information; and

WHEREAS, early pleasurable experiences with accessible print materials in classrooms, school library media centers, town library media centers, and at home help to develop children who have the desire to read, read early, and become lifelong voluntary readers; and

WHEREAS, when children read early and more frequently they have the opportunity to develop sophisticated language structures, comprehension, and word analysis skills, thus enabling them to become fluent readers; be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the International Reading Association supports the necessity for high quality print materials in the form of multiple genres of children's literature, magazines, and newspapers, to be accessible in classrooms, school library media centers, and town library media centers. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the International Reading Association seek legislation from local and national government officials to provide adequate funding to keep classroom and school library media centers current with quality literature. School library media centers should have at least 20 books per child and classroom libraries at least 7 books per child. A minimum of two new books should be purchased each year per child for school library media centers and a minimum of one new book per child for classrooms. This will allow the elimination of books that are no longer timely and the addition of important new titles. And be it further

RESOLVED, that school library media centers plan acquisition programs that are integrated with the instructional program of the school. Such a school program should decide what types of books are needed to help the school and the library media center achieve these instructional goals. And be it further

RESOLVED, that public library media centers also be a part of this total integrated plan of the schools and provide their own programs for children and parents to enhance the joy of reading and easy, free access to books. And be it further

RESOLVED, that in this time of emphasis on explicit instruction of skills, IRA acknowledges the fact that learning to read is a complex task that requires varied skills. Therefore all teachers, school library media specialists and town library media specialists should include, as a major emphasis in teaching reading, the promotion of the joy of reading as ranking high among other goals and should cultivate the habit of reading with a rich supply of accessible books and programs that suggest their appropriate use by teachers and children.

(Adopted May 1999 as "On Books and Other Print Materials for Classrooms and School Library Media Centers in the U.S."; Revised February 2010)