

RESOLUTION

In Support of Credentialed Library Media Professionals in School Library Media Centers

WHEREAS, in today's changing global society, all students need to be literate; and this includes building an appreciation of literature that enriches life and fosters understanding of cultural, ethnic, and economic differences; and critically reading civic, scientific, historical, and technical information; and

WHEREAS, recent research shows a strong positive correlation between student reading achievement and library media programs staffed by credentialed library media professionals; and

WHEREAS, credentialed school library media professionals promote, inspire, and guide students toward a love of reading, a quest for knowledge, and a thirst for lifelong learning; promote creative and effective teaching; collaborate with classroom teachers to plan, design, deliver, and evaluate instruction using a variety of resources and information technology; provide leadership, expertise, and advocacy in the use of technology, print, and electronic resources; and manage the selection of, acquisition of, and access to high quality learning resources, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the International Reading Association recognizes the need for credentialed library media professionals and support personnel in schools worldwide. Be it further

RESOLVED, that the International Reading Association advocates that each school staff include credentialed library media professionals and support personnel to carry out the mission of the instructional program. Be it further

RESOLVED, that the International Reading Association advocates that librarians must be accessible resources for classroom teachers and the new common core standards. And be it further

RESOLVED, that the International Reading Association seeks legislation from local and national government officials to provide adequate funding to staff professional and support personnel in school library media programs. Professional staffing should be funded on the basis of one credentialed school library media professional per 400 students.

School Library Media Professional: A credentialed or certificated professional. Titles for certificated library media professional may vary from place to place around the world. Some common titles are: Library Media Teacher, Library Media Specialist, Library Media Coordinator, and Librarian. In California, for example, the Library Media Teacher has an earned post-graduate degree in addition to teaching credential. In order to assure the highest level of library service to students and staff, libraries should be overseen by a person with these credentials.

(Adopted May 2000; Revised May 2011)