

Alabama Library Media Recommendations Title Committee

One of the nine common beliefs set forth in the American Association of School Librarians' (AASL) Standards for the 21st-Century Learner is as follows: "Equitable access is a key component to education. All children deserve equitable access to books and reading, to information, and to information technology and resources that encourage curiosity and inquiry in an environment that is safe and conducive to learning."

TITLE COMMITTEE - Alabama Library Media Recommendations

Title 1, Part A – General Recommendations

- Reinforce that school librarians are eligible and ensure that they are funded for professional development training opportunities at the State Educational and Local Educational level.
- Ensure that funding is allocated necessary for the instructional services of an effective school library program.

Title II, Part B: Subpart 2 – General Recommendations

- Ensure that school librarians are represented on the State Literacy Leadership team AND the State Technology Leadership Team in order to ensure that a COMPREHENSIVE literacy instruction plan is created considering multiple literacies.
- Ensure that librarians have knowledge of and access to appropriate assessment tools for measuring multiple literacy skills in order to assure student mastery. **

** Benchmarks for library media are currently being developed to measure multiple literacy components in the framework of the AASL Library Media standards.

Title II, Part B: Section 2226 – General Recommendations

- Ensure appropriate funding for resources in multiple formats to meet the diverse literacy development needs of all students.
- Ensure that additional funds are budgeted for school libraries in areas that serve high-need students to offset neighborhood poverty.

Title IV, Part A -

- Ensure that school libraries and *certified school librarians* are included in the ALSDE allocations of funds targeted at educational technology integration.
- Certified school librarians have an educational foundation to successfully integrate technology into instruction with purpose and meaning. They support both the content and the technology.

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LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIFIC TITLE RECOMMENDATIONS

Title I, Part A: Subpart 1 Improving Basic Operations by SEA and LEA's

- Adopt the American Library Association's (ALA) position statement regarding an effective school library media program.
- SEA and LEA plans should include developing effective school library media programs to provide students with equitable opportunities to develop digital literacy skills and improve academic achievement.

Title II, Part A: Section 2101 Formula Grants to States Supporting Effective Instruction

- Explicitly include school librarians and libraries in authorization for use of funds to support instructional services provided by effective library media programs.

Title II, Part B: Subpart 1 – Innovative Approaches to Literacy

- To benefit communities that meet the low-income criteria, school library programs should be authorized and encouraged to participate in the grant process for developing and enhancing effective school library programs.
- Items for inclusion should include professional development for the library staff — both librarians and paraprofessionals — specific to library and technology integration in addition to up-to-date instructional materials and resources in both print and digital form.

Title II, Part B: Subpart 2 – Literacy Education for All

- School librarians are included in ESSA as *specialized instructional support*. School librarians should be included in professional development opportunities designed to improve student academic achievement in reading and writing.
- Include time for teacher and specialized instructional support staff (including school librarians) to meet and plan comprehensive literacy instruction.

Title IV, Part A: Subpart 1 – Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants

- The ALSDE is authorized to inventory and address the technology needs and readiness in school libraries to ensure equitable school Internet access and electronic resource access for ALL Alabama students.

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- Ensure and provide for development of the technology skills of librarians, paraprofessionals, teachers and media personnel so they may effectively integrate technology and improve instruction and student achievement.

Title IV, Part A: 21st Century Schools-Activities to support effective use of technology

- For LEAs (or consortia) receiving under \$30,000: include the library media center in the needs assessment regarding the use of technology.
- Include library media centers as a recipient of funds allocated under 4015(a) in order to ensure the use of technology for improving academic growth, digital literacy and academic achievement for students identified in the needs assessment.

Title IV, Part B,-Century Community Learning Centers

- Allow ALSDE to utilize sub-grants to support expanded library media center services.
- Expanded services may include after school hours staffing as well as the creation of academic, remedial, technology enrichment opportunities.

Title VIII – Definition of Specialized Instructional Support

- Explicitly acknowledge by name that school librarians and library media specialists are recognized in ESSA as *specialized instructional support*.

Respectfully submitted:

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