

Calling all parents!

A Library/Media Center Report Card for Parents and Community Members in Minnesota.

Did you know that Minnesota has new standards for its school library media programs?

Studies have shown that student academic success can be tied directly to quality school library media programs staffed by professional library media specialists who have an active role as teachers and that give students access to the library media center's resources throughout the school day.

Is *your* child's school library media program the best it can be? Is it having a positive impact on the opportunities that your child has to read willingly, find and use information wisely, master life-long technology skills, think critically, and desire to learn independently?

*A well-staffed, well-stocked, connected school library with an integrated curriculum is likely to raise reading achievement scores by 10-20%.
LRS School Library Media Impact Studies**

To check the quality of your child's media program:

- Visit with your school's library media specialist. Volunteer to work in the media center.
- Find out about the qualities of a good school library media program. Use the accompanying set of questions as a guide. Visit the complete standards on the website given below.
- Ask your school board, principal and superintendent directly about the library media program your child's school offers.

Visit these websites to find out more:

Minnesota Standards for School Library Media Programs

<<http://cfl.state.mn.us/library/mnschoolstandards.pdf>>

Minnesota Educational Media Organization (MEMO)

<<http://www.memoweb.org/index.html>>

***Library Research Service**

<<http://www.lrs.org/>>

American Association of School Librarians KidsCONNECT and

FamilyCONNECT web-based resources

<<http://www.ala.org/ICONN/index.html>>

Your involvement can make the difference in providing your child with a great library media program.



How does your school's library media center check out?

A quality school library is kid friendly and kid focused.

Learning opportunities

1. Do most of the teachers and classes in your child's school make use of the library media centers resources?
2. Does your child have access to the library media center and library media specialist throughout the school day?
3. Is there collaboration between your child's classroom teachers and the library staff so that what is taught in the media center and the classroom are coordinated?
4. Do your child's teachers use and encourage student use of the media centers resources?
5. Do your child's research projects use a variety of technologies to locate and use information?

Information and reading resources

6. Is there a varied and current collection that reflects the curriculum and society in general available to your child? (10-15 items per student or 5000 volumes, which ever is greater.)
7. Are a wide variety of new books and other print materials that encourage and support reading and learning available to your child?
8. Is the library media center's atmosphere energetic and inviting - creating a learning laboratory that includes:
 - a reference area?
 - a storytelling/booktalking area?
 - an instructional area?
 - displays and collections of student work?
9. Does the media center have multiple, up-to-date technologies that provide your child guided access to:
 - the Internet?
 - an automated card catalog?
 - multimedia production capabilities?
 - on-line and multimedia resources?
 - an area for group instruction in technology and research?

Availability, programs and policies

10. Are the media center and its resources available to your child before and after school?
11. Are there enough professional and technical staff to meet the needs of all students?
12. Is there sufficient space in the media center so a class of students plus individual students or small groups can access the materials at the same time?
13. Is there a professional library media specialist who:
 - teaches the information process?
 - understands the uses of technology?
 - selects and uses a wide variety of materials?
 - works in partnership with your child's classroom teachers to best use the media center resources to support learning?
14. Is the library media specialist an enthusiastic, kid-loving teacher who encourages and supports your child's reading, research, and learning through:
 - promotionwhole-school learning events?
 - regional educational activities?
15. Does the media program respect the privacy of your child and enforce the concepts of:
 - intellectual freedom
 - copyright and intellectual property
 - diversity
 - safe and acceptable use of Internet resources
16. Is the media program adequately funded to maintain a level of materials and personnel that make a difference in your child's educational program?
17. Does your library media specialist communicate with you on a regular basis through the school newsletter or letters home?

*This guide is produced by the Minnesota Educational Media Organization www.memoweb.org/
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