

Study Recommendations

- School libraries should be scheduled as flexibly as possible to maximize access.
- A high-quality school library, at any grade level, requires at least one librarian plus support staff.
- Computers that provide access to library resources—both in the library and elsewhere in the school—should be available to facilitate student performance.
- School libraries should be funded to maintain their traditional print collections as well as to expand their reach beyond the library's walls via educational technology.
- Students should visit libraries to be taught by librarians and by teachers and librarians working in collaboration.

Illinois School Library Media Association

For more information about ISLMA, visit the ISLMA web site,
<http://www.islma.org>.



Other School Library Impact Studies

For more information about recent research on the impact of school library programs on academic achievement, visit the Impact Studies page on the Library Research Service web site,
<http://www.LRS.org/impact.asp>.

Contact Information

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Flexible Scheduling of School Libraries

Schools with libraries more available for flexible scheduling have higher reading and other scores at all grade levels.

Grade Level	Median flexible hours	Average score improvement	
		Reading	Writing (* ACT)
Elementary	16	10%	11%
Middle	30	5%	
High	35	6%	5% *

School Library Staff & Their Activities

Schools with more weekly hours of library staffing have higher reading and other scores at all grade levels.

Grade Level	Median staff hours	Average score improvement	
		Reading	Writing (* ACT)
Elementary	42	13%	17%
Middle	49	8%	18%
High	70	7%	5%*

The more library staff hours, the more likely librarians are identifying materials for teachers, planning and teaching with them, and motivating students to read.

We use a flexible delivery model and have found our [library] to be the literacy hub of our building. Denise Welter, Principal, Landmark School, McHenry

This is the best school library I have ever been in, and ... it wouldn't be nearly as good if [the librarian] didn't have a full day here. 8th grade student, Lombard Middle School, Galesburg

School Library Collections & Educational Technology

Schools with larger library book collections have higher test scores. The test varies by grade level.

Grade Level	Median volumes	Average score improvement
Elementary	9,000	8% (reading)
Middle	8,722	14% (writing)
High	11,554	4% (ACT)

Schools in which library resources are more readily available via school computers have higher test scores. The test varies by grade level.

Grade Level	Library-connected computers per 100 students	Average score improvement
Elementary	11	6% (reading)
Middle	14	8% (writing)
High	23	4% (ACT)

School Library Expenditures

Schools that spend more on their libraries have higher reading and other scores at all grade levels.

Grade Level	Median library spending	Average score improvement	
		Reading	Writing (* ACT)
Elementary	\$4,500	5%	10%
Middle	\$6,250	9%	13%
High	\$10,255	12%	7%

School Library Usage

Elementary schools with libraries that circulate more books and other items (median = 570 loans per week) average 6% higher reading and 11% higher writing scores.

Middle schools have higher writing scores and high schools, higher ACT scores when their libraries receive more group visits per week, especially for information literacy instruction have higher.

Grade Level	Median weekly group visits (for info literacy)	Average score improvement
Middle	18 (8)	10%
High	16 (10)	9%

These comparisons illustrate the dimensions of school library programs that correlate positively and statistically significantly with student test scores. The overwhelming majority of these relationships persist regardless of the school's per pupil spending, teacher-pupil ratio, or student race/ethnicity. Many of the relationships remain even when household income is taken into account.

The Media Center is the hub of all media in the building – video, print, technological, etc. – with one main library and two attached computer labs. Kyle Schumacher, Principal, Deer Path Middle School East, Lake Forest

The IRC is an effective place for students to meet to complete group projects. It is a central location with all of the resources needed. Penny Swartz, Coordinator, Niles West High School IRC, Skokie