Alaska Association of Student Government
Resolution #8
Equitable and Adequate Staffing for School Libraries
Submitted by: Ketchikan High School
Submitted on: September 26, 2026

Be it Resolved by the Alaska Association of Student Governments that the prioritization of State and district funding to guarantee at least one full-time certified librarian or trained media specialist in the KGBSD is supported by the General Assembly of AASG.

1. **Whereas,** library media specialists work primarily in K-12 school environments and serve students as both educators and information professionals;[1]
2. **Whereas,** school libraries provide critical access to educational databases, physical literature, technology, conducting valid research, and quiet study environments essential to equitable student learning;[2]
3. **Whereas,** school libraries are fundamental to the emotional well-being of students by providing safe and inclusive spaces that support mental health;[3]
4. **Whereas**, the American Association of School Librarians (AASL), maintains the position that every school requires a minimum of one full-time certified school librarian to function effectively as an instructional partner and information specialist;[4]
5. **Whereas,** neither school libraries nor professional school librarians are currently mandated by state law or the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) regulations, leaving staffing entirely to local school district discretion;[5]
6. **Whereas,** many school districts across the State of Alaska face severe budget deficits, resulting in targeted cuts to library personnel, reduced operating hours, or reliance on uncertified staff to manage library facilities, creating wide disparities in educational equity and student resource access;[5] [6]

7. **Whereas**, studies conducted throughout the United States demonstrate a direct correlation between staffed school libraries and improved student achievement and literacy rates;[7] [8]
8. **Whereas,** operating a school building without an accessible library severely degrades a student's ability to prepare for post-secondary education and meet State literacy standards;[7] [8]

Therefore, be it resolved that the Alaska Association of Student Governments supports the prioritization of State and district funding to guarantee at least one full-time certified librarian or trained media specialist in the KGBSD.

Action Statement: if passed by the general assembly of AASG, this resolution will be sent to the Ketchikan Gateway Borough School District (KGBSD) and DEED.

The resolution passes with unanimous consent.

Sarah Todd

AASG Vice President, Sarah Todd

Kassandra Mirosh

AASG Executive Director, Kassandra Mirosh

Sources:

1. UWA. "Library Media Specialist Vs. Librarian: Comparing Career Roles." *UWA Online,* 7 Apr. 2026, https://online.uwa.edu/news/library-media-specialist-vs-librarian-career/.
2. UWA. "The Making of the Modern Librarian: The Value of School Libraries." *UWA Online*, 18 Nov. 2020, https://online.uwa.edu/news/school-libraries-guide/.
3. ouralaskanschools. "'The Importance of K-12 Libraries in Alaska' by Tana Martin, Librarian/Media Specialist at Tanana Middle School." *Edublogs.Org*, 20 Jan. 2020, https://ouralaskanschools.edublogs.org/2020/01/19/the-importance-of-k12-libraries-in-alaska/.
4. "American Library Association." *Ala.Org*, 2026, *Appropriate Staffing for School Libraries*. https://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/resources/statements.

5. Kachel, Debra, and Keith Curry. *Requirements for School Librarian Employment: A State-by-State Summary*, 7 March 2021, https://libslide.org/pubs/requirements.pdf
6. Rinio, Deborah. "Opinion: Cutting Alaskalibrarians and Literacy Programs Is a Betrayal of Our Kids." *Anchorage Daily News*, 19 June 2025, https://www.adn.com/opinions/2025/06/18/opinion-cutting-alaska-librarians-and-literacy-programs-is-a-betrayal-of-our-kids/.
7. Kappan Staff. "Why School Librarians Matter: What Years of Research Tell Us." *Kappan Online*, 26 Mar. 2018, https://kappanonline.org/lance-kachel-school-librarians-matter-years-research
8. "Investing in School Libraries and Librarians To Improve Literacy Outcomes - Center for American Progress." *Center for American Progress*, 18 Apr. 2024, https://www.americanprogress.org/article/investing-in-school-libraries-and-librarians-to-improve-literacy-outcomes/