WHY CARE ABOUT SCHOOL LIBRARIES?

- **School libraries are critical for student achievement**
  Across the United States, research has shown that students in schools with good school libraries learn more, get better grades, and score higher on standardized test scores than their peers in schools without libraries. From Alaska to North Carolina, more than 60 studies have shown clear evidence of this connection between student achievement and the presence of school libraries with qualified school library media specialists.


- **School libraries have an important role in teaching**
  Today’s school librarians are important instructional partners or consultants in supporting and expanding existing curriculum. These media specialists are working with teachers to change what is possible in the classroom and support exciting learning opportunities with books, computer resources and more.

• **School libraries are leading the way for technology use in schools**
  No longer are school libraries just for books, they have become “school library media centers” with computer resources that enable children to engage meaningfully with a wide variety of information. These centers with trained staff support the use of electronic information resources not just in the center, but help to integrate these resources in classrooms and throughout the curriculum.


• **School libraries inspire literacy**
  When learners of all ages have the opportunity to read stories and explore information that matters to them, various forms of literacy and numeracy can emerge. Research has shown that school libraries have the tools to inspire literacy in learners of all ages.


• **School libraries don't matter without highly qualified school librarians**
  Research has shown that school libraries staffed by qualified library media specialists are needed to have a positive impact on student academic achievement.