

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDS:

The Governor's Educator Advisory Council recommends that Governor Whitmer and her policy directors support and promote proper funding of the bills HB 4663, HB 4664, and HB 4665 The School Library Bills, sponsored by Representatives Camilleri, Koleszar, and O'Neal, respectively.

The acceptance of this request and the subsequent promotion of these bills will move to ensure that all students in Michigan have equitable access to effective school library programs staffed by certified school librarians. The passage of these bills, with ensured financial support, will improve literacy achievement for students, provide students with equitable access to diverse books and resources, support our school communities' technology integration, and help ensure our students' readiness for career and college.

School libraries staffed by certified school librarians have an important role in Michigan Schools, providing the school community equitable access to diverse print and digital resources in support of teaching and learning. Certified school librarians play a key role in increasing student achievement by supporting, collaborating, and co-teaching with classroom teachers in reading development, in integrating information and technology literacy skills into the content curriculum, in teaching and supporting positive digital citizenship skills, and in meeting the expectations for student research set forth in Michigan's learning standards.

The Michigan State Board of Education, the Michigan Reading Association, the Regional Educational Media Center Association of Michigan, the Michigan Academic Library Association, the Michigan Library Association, the Michigan Education Association, the School Finance Research Collaborative and Education Trust Midwest have all published statements or positions promoting the need for all students in Michigan to have equitable access to school libraries staffed by certified school librarians. Yet, Michigan is currently ranked 47th in the nation in the ratio of students to certified school librarians.

The services provided by Michigan School Librarians to their school communities have been even more essential as schools moved to distance learning in spring 2020 and returned to learning in fall 2020 in virtual, hybrid, and/or in-person models. As per the American Association of School Librarians documentation of "School Librarian Role in Pandemic Learning Conditions," Michigan school librarians have translated their role as instructional partner, teacher, leader, and program administrator to support teaching and learning within and beyond the school library walls.

Potential funding sources for the above School Library Bills have been identified. For example, the School Finance Research Collaborative funding model (which has been supported by the Governor) includes one certified library media specialist at each prototypical school and \$20.00 per student for library materials <<https://www.fundmischools.org/>>. Another funding option would be to allow school districts to apply for grants ranging from \$75,000 to \$30 per pupil depending on size in order to hire certified library media specialists and purchase library resources. Districts receiving such grant funding would submit a plan to meet the standards of the "Qualified" or "Exemplary" Status of the School Libraries for the 21st Century Measurement Benchmarks <www.michigan.gov/sl21>.

Promotion, support and funding for library bills HB 4663, HB 4664, and HB 4665 will raise awareness of the critical need for equitable access to school library services for all Michigan students. The bills are a significant step toward providing equitable access to print and digital resources for school communities, ensuring higher literacy achievement in our state.



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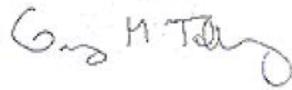
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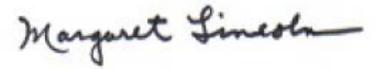
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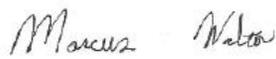
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