



# A quality school library is kid friendly and student focused

**Learning today means more than memorizing facts. It means learning to learn for a lifetime.**

Savvy parents and educators know that the school library media center is key to teaching students not just to read but to practice the skills they need to seek, evaluate and use information throughout their lives.

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.

In fact, the 2005 Wisconsin study, *Student Learning Through Wisconsin School Library Media Centers*, showed that those students from schools with professionally staffed, fully equipped libraries scored up to 19% higher on the state achievement exam!

## **Is your child's school library media program the best it can be?**

Is your child's school library media program 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?

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

- Find out about the qualities of a good school library media program. Obtain a copy of the brochure *Measuring Up: Characteristics of Quality School Libraries* (URL listed on the back of this brochure).



- Read about the *Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Information and Technology Literacy* (URL listed on the back of this brochure).
- Visit with your school's library media specialist. Volunteer to work in the school library media center.
- Ask your school board, principal and superintendent directly about the library media program offered in your child's school.

## **Key findings from *Student Learning Through Wisconsin School Library Media Centers***

### **Key Finding #1:**

Schools with full-time certified library media specialists and full-time library aides have higher performance on the WKCE.

### **Key Finding #2:**

Schools where the library media specialist spends more time on instructionally-related student and teacher activities have higher WKCE scores.

### **Key Finding #3:**

Teachers who aligned WMAS for Information and Technology Literacy to their lessons found school library media programs more helpful to student performance.

### **Key Finding #4:**

Schools with greater library media program resources for collections and technology have higher performance on the WKCE.

### **Key Finding #5:**

Library media specialists help students acquire unique skills not taught in the classroom and information and technology skills essential for students in the 21st century.

Smith, Ester G. *Student Learning Through Wisconsin School Library Media Centers*. 2006. Retrieved September 1, 2006 from <http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/lmsstudy.html>.



Dear Wisconsin Parents,

The recently completed study of Wisconsin school library media programs, *Student Learning Through Wisconsin*

*School Library Media Centers*, commissioned by the Department of Public Instruction, has provided insights into how school library media programs and library media specialists contribute to student success.

The study examined the leadership and instructional roles of Wisconsin public school library media specialists required for a quality school library media program and the direct relationship with and impact on student achievement and learning across all grade levels.

The study consists of three components:

- Quantitative data on library media program structure, resources and operations;
- Qualitative data on the benefits received from library media programs; and
- Case studies of 5 "best practice" school library media programs.

This brochure contains guiding questions every parent should ask to determine the vitality of their child's school library media center and program.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Burmaster  
State Superintendent

### Visit these websites to learn more about Wisconsin school library media programs:

<http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/>

Home page for Instructional Media & Technology Team at the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

<http://dpi.wi.gov/imt/lmsstudy.html>

Students Learning Through Wisconsin School Library Media Centers (complete study results)  
Measuring Up: Characteristics of Quality School Libraries (brochure)

Student Learning Through Wisconsin School Libraries: Wisconsin Study Results (1 page summary of study results)

<http://dpi.wi.gov/standards/pdf/infotech.pdf>

Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards for Information & Technology Literacy

[http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/printables/downloads/slw\\_2006.pdf](http://www.scholastic.com/librarians/printables/downloads/slw_2006.pdf)

School Libraries Work! 2006 ed.

<http://www.wemaonline.org>

Wisconsin Educational Media Association

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# Your Child's School Library Media Center

## What Parents Should Know