

Philadelphia Alliance to Restore School Librarians



Did you know?

- In 2025-26, the School District of Philadelphia has only 2 full-time librarians and 3 part-time librarians (who also have other teaching duties) for 218 schools and almost 118,000 students
- Two out of three children in Philadelphia cannot read on grade level by 4th grade.
- Research shows that students who attend schools with full-time, professional school librarians score significantly better on reading tests than students whose schools don't have librarians.

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Certified school librarians encourage critical thinking, curiosity and lifelong learning; instill a love for reading; establish and maintain a library environment that is inclusive, welcoming, safe and a place of discovery and joy; provide students and staff with a curated library collection that supports learning and personal needs...They are one of a district's best bargains.

Gab Casieri, President-Elect, NJASL, 12.12.2025 SDP Board Meeting

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PARSL aims to partner with the School District of Philadelphia to **co-create a strategic growth plan** for the development of effective library programs with **certified teacher librarians in all schools** across the district.

ALL students deserve access to quality library spaces, services, and instruction.

Volunteer • Advocate • Donate

 parslibrarians@gmail.com

 [@restorephillylibrarians](https://www.instagram.com/restorephillylibrarians)

  [Philadelphia Alliance to Restore School Librarians](https://www.facebook.com/PhiladelphiaAllianceToRestoreSchoolLibrarians)

 [restorephillylibrarians.org](https://www.restorephillylibrarians.org)

PARSL is led by a Core Committee and a Strategic Planning Committee. PARSL's Core Committee members include: **Corinne Brady**, Program Coordinator, Library Volunteers, John B. Kelly School; **Deb Grill**, Retired School Librarian, SDP, Alliance for Philadelphia Public Schools (APPS), Library Advocacy; **Deb Kachel**, Retired School Librarian, Online Professor, Antioch University Seattle, Pennsylvania School Librarians Association, Advocacy Committee; **Jenny Lowman**, PARSL Coordinator; & **Dr. Barb Stripling**, Retired School Librarian, Administrator, Educator, Professor Emerita, Syracuse University, 2013-2014 President, American Library Association.



An English teacher cannot also be a librarian. School libraries and certified school librarians are essential for supporting students and their academic growth. As always, our students (and their teachers) deserve better.

Maddie Luebbert, 1/30/2025, SDP School Board Testimony

We know it's going to take a long time to get to where we want to be. It took over 20 years for them to decimate school library programs in Philly. It could take that long to build them back up. But each school that we can set up with a school library and a school librarian empowers those teachers and students. And we're going to do it one building at a time if we have to.

Deb Kachel in the SLJ, 10/28/2024



SCHOOL LIBRARIANS ELEVATE STUDENT LEARNING

INQUIRE



Librarians partner with teachers to craft authentic research assignments.

Students develop and refine questions throughout the research process.

READ



Librarians provide free access to fiction and nonfiction titles for reading and research.

Students read for recreation, to expand their knowledge, and to develop empathy.

RESEARCH

Librarians teach how to find, evaluate, and curate relevant, accurate information.

Students conduct short and long research projects using materials that extend learning.

SHARE



Librarians model collaborative work strategies, incorporating diverse perspectives.

Students learn to interact and collaborate with others appropriately.

CREATE



Librarians provide a welcoming and inspiring place to create and learn.

Students use available tools to demonstrate knowledge, share ideas or solve problems.

GROW

New Jersey Association of School Librarians
njasl.org