

# School Librarian vs. Library Paraprofessional: Understanding the Roles

While both roles are essential to a functional school library, their focus differs significantly. The Certified School Librarian provides pedagogical leadership and instructional partnerships, while the Paraprofessional ensures the efficiency of daily operations and technical support.



## The Certified School Librarian

### Instructional Partner

Partners with classroom teachers to design inquiry-driven lessons while teaching research skills.

### Literacy Leader

Promotes a joyful reading culture while leading schoolwide literacy initiatives and enrichment.

### Pedagogical Authority

Manages the library budget while curating quality, inclusive resources that support the curriculum.

## The Library Paraprofessional



### Operational Support

Manages circulation services and maintains patron records while keeping the library running.

### Technical Assistance

Troubleshoots basic tech issues while helping students locate specific books and resources.

### Physical Maintenance

Handles the physical processing of materials while performing minor repairs and shelving.

	School Librarian	Library Paraprofessional
<b>Primary Goal</b>	Enhances student learning.	Oversees daily desk operations
<b>Working with Learners</b>	Designs engaging literacy instruction.	Supports librarian's activities.
<b>Cataloging / Collection Development</b>	Selects and organizes a high-quality collection to support learning and interests.	Coordinates item labeling and shelving.
<b>Budgeting</b>	Plans and manages budget to support curriculum and ensure equity of access.	Tracks orders and supplies.