

Good afternoon,

I am a sixth-grade social studies teacher at C. R. Anderson Middle School here in Helena. It was brought to my attention that initial recommendations for changing Montana's library staffing are to reduce the number of librarians in schools across the state. (Elementary schools only have 1 as it is now.) Our two librarians at C. R. A. help over a thousand students foster their love for reading throughout the school year, and they also teach research, citations, and other vital skills. With our new social studies standards emphasizing independent research and engagement with a variety of sources, our librarians are more vital than ever as a resource for student success. Can you help me understand why removing their positions is being recommended?

In addition, every day we send various students to the library with their technology issues. Students have Chromebooks that don't always work, but our librarians are an immediate and effective source for solving those problems quickly and getting students back to their schoolwork. Who will be able to take care of those issues if there are no librarians?

Additionally, there would be no requirement for a central library in any school. Our library is a vital part of our students' education. Please explain why getting rid of central libraries would be helpful to our students at C. R. Anderson Middle School.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these questions.

Christi Williams