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Public Comment

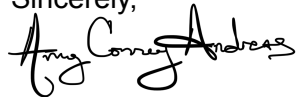
Attn: School Quality Negotiated Rulemaking Committee

I am the high school librarian at Browning High School in Browning, MT. Currently the high school serves well over 500 students. I am the only full-time librarian for the high school. I have a part-time (.5) librarian that joins me in the library for two periods a day but they are actually teaching a core class with students at that time so basically they are unavailable to help me in completing tasks that fall under the umbrella of the BHS library media program. As you hopefully already know, librarians meet many educational needs of the schools they serve and are responsible for all of the following types of activities and then some: teaching/co-teaching classes, coordinating units of study and other extended project based learning opportunities, recruiting outside agencies to provide additional services for our students, managing budgets and large collections of digital/print materials and resources, sponsoring a variety of after school clubs, initiating field trips, developing and maintaining a warm, welcoming learning environment for all students...just to name a few.

Following current standards, we are already understaffed. If the rules that determine how librarians are assigned to schools/students are changed we will fall even further behind in providing impactful and effective library/information literacy services to our students and staff.

Changing how librarians are staffed in our district would mean fewer librarians across the district which would result in current librarians being split between locations. Closing the doors of our library, for any amount of time during the day, would negatively impact the educational achievement and the learning environment of Browning High School. I can confidently (and not so humbly) assure you that the BHS Library is the heart of this school. As a district that already struggles to provide basic educational services to students, I cannot fathom further decreasing our valuable resources for students and staff alike. Please consider at least maintaining the current standards for staffing our Montana school libraries as our communities are already underserved and the need for engaging, effective information literacy skills instruction and library media services has never been stronger!

Sincerely,



Amy Conrey Andreas
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