

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am writing to you as public commentary on the proposed changes to library accreditation for the state. As an educator (6th grade teacher, Bozeman Public Schools) and a parent of children in our public school system, I believe that these changes would be harmful to the literacy development and growth of all students and would be used by districts as an excuse to eliminate critical positions for budgetary reasons.

By eliminating the FTE requirements per size of the school district, the State is basically saying that one library media specialist could serve an entire district (such as Bozeman) without affecting accreditation. This would have a disastrous impact on the critical need for student literacy development and collaborative teaching. Our librarians provide invaluable service by not only connecting students to the right book's for their growth but planning of media literacy and safety courses. Additionally, the school library is a key link between families and fostering a love of reading.

These changes feel like an end run around the responsible requirements for school districts and I am opposed to them.

-Sincerely,

Avi Katz