

May 16, 2022

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter to state our support of keeping the school library staffing ratios that are currently in place. As school librarians, we ensure students have access to information and materials in a safe and supportive environment. Having a qualified librarian in each of our campus libraries allows us to work closely with our staff to provide materials that enrich learning in the classrooms.

A number of studies have been conducted, proving that students with access to full-time librarians has a positive impact on test scores and academic achievement.

the most substantial and consistent finding is a positive relationship between full-time, qualified school librarians and scores on standards-based language arts, reading, and writing tests, regardless of student demographics and school characteristics. For example, a national study using data from the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) and 4th-grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading scores documented that losses of librarians are associated with declines or inferior gains in reading scores, while gains of librarians are associated with improved scores (Lance & Hofschire, 2011a). When the study was replicated in Colorado the following year using more precise state data, the result was the same (Lance & Hofschire, 2012).

Lockwood is one school district that could be adversely affected if changes are made to the proposed staffing ratios, and our students would be the ones to suffer this impact. Currently, our students are making huge gains in recovering the academic losses created from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please consider keeping the existing ratios which allow us to best serve the students and staff of our district.

Sincerely,

Kristine Laib, Lockwood High School Library

Johanna Freivalds, Eileen Johnson Middle School Library

Teresa Marchant, Lockwood Intermediate Library

Christine Kombol, Lockwood Primary Library

Lance, K.C. & Hofschire, L. (2012). Change in school librarian staffing linked with changes in CSAP reading performance, 2005 to 2011. Denver, CO: Library Research Service.

Lance, K.C. & Kachel, D.E. (2018). Why school librarians matter: What years of research tell us. Phi Delta Kappan, 99 (7), 15-20.