

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of school libraries everywhere.

I love libraries. Growing up in a transient family, libraries offered me books that entertained, educated and informed me. Books were my friends and my comfort. Those libraries were in school and open to the public. Library day was the best day of the week!

Because of my exposure to libraries, I am an avid reader to this day. I am always reading one book but that can sometimes include an additional audio book by day and a printed book at night.

Today, I am an ELA teacher. It saddens me to see how few high school students are interested in reading or listening to books of any kind. The librarian at our school, though, orders books constantly to have a wide variety of books that interest teens along with many, many Spanish books so that our high number of Spanish speakers also have access to reading material.

In addition, a school librarian has access to author visits and organizes field trips so students are exposed to authors who bring a story to a more human and realistic level rather than an abstract one.

Please ensure every school library has a certified librarian and appropriate library funding. I am in support of libraries, books, librarians, and all that is part of this world. Adults need to read throughout their life to maintain brain-health. Children need to develop a love for reading which will be part of their life from the time they can first read words into their adulthood. And that will only make this upcoming generation better, smarter and more worldly humans.

That brings us HOPE. And that's something everyone needs.

Thank you,
Denise Webster
ELA Teacher
JSEC/Providence Public Schools