

Lisa Cataldi

From: Jessica LeMay <peacelily88@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 7, 2026 9:24 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Support for School Libraries and Certified Librarians in Every Rhode Island School

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Dear Rhode Island Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to support legislation that ensures every school in Rhode Island has a fully functioning library staffed by a certified librarian. School libraries are not a luxury—they are a critical component of student success.

Numerous studies have consistently shown that schools with strong library programs and professional librarians see higher academic achievement, improved reading scores, and stronger research and critical thinking skills among students. When students have access to well-resourced libraries and knowledgeable librarians who can guide them, they develop the literacy, information evaluation, and problem-solving skills necessary to succeed in school and beyond.

Librarians do far more than manage books. They teach students how to research effectively, evaluate sources, navigate digital information responsibly, and develop a lifelong love of reading. These skills are essential in today's world, where students are constantly surrounded by information but need guidance in understanding and evaluating it.

Schools with active library services consistently demonstrate better or improving academic performance compared to those without. Investing in school libraries is an investment in student achievement, equitable access to resources, and stronger communities.

For many students, the school library is the only place where they have access to a wide variety of books, technology, and a supportive learning environment. Without dedicated librarians, students lose an essential educational support system.

This is why legislation mandating that every school have a library staffed by a certified librarian is so important. Ensuring equitable access to library services across the state would provide all Rhode Island students—regardless of district or zip code—the opportunity to succeed academically and develop lifelong learning skills.

Passing this bill would be a smart and necessary step forward for Rhode Island's students. The research is clear, the benefits are well documented, and the need is urgent. Supporting school libraries is one of the most effective ways to strengthen education statewide.

I strongly encourage you to enact this legislation and ensure that every Rhode Island student has access to the resources and professional support that a school library provides.

Thank you for your time and for your commitment to Rhode Island's students.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

"In the nonstop tsunami of global information, librarians provide us with floaties and teach us how to swim." -- Linton Weeks, Washington Post, Jan. 13, 2001."

-Linton Weeks