

To the members of the committee, and the entire legislature,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts on school libraries and librarians. I am the librarian at Juanita Sanchez Education Complex High School. Several of my colleagues and some of my students are also writing testimony, including references to research over the last 40 years consistently showing the benefits of having a full time certified school librarian for the success of the students. I have put some links to recent research on the topic at the bottom of the letter. Instead I would like to share with you some of what I do to help you understand why school librarians should be full time in every school.

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#### Library Program & Collection Management

- Manage and maintain the library program and collections
- Record and make available to the district the class set collection
- Maintain new books collection and display with titles from the grant from Brown University (ending in June)
- Retroactively label the fiction with genre indicators making access to titles easier for students
- Built and continue to expand the Spanish language collection
- Built a Manga collection
- Respond to individual student requests for titles and non-English (or Spanish) materials

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#### Student Reading Engagement & Programming

- Introduce students (via their English classes or individually) to the idea of libraries
- Recommend and circulate books for independent and pleasure reading, often on a person-to-person basis
- Organize and lead book clubs
- Book talks to help students find new books that fit their interests
- Create displays of various topics with information and associated titles
- Arrange field trips to author visits and book signings for students

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#### Instruction & Academic Support

- Work with classes on research, creating citations, digital resource use, creating a bibliography, and more (across all subjects)
- Collaborate with teachers on information literacy, critical and creative thinking, evaluating resources, bias and validity, and internet safety curricula
- Assist students and teachers with technology use and integration, and technology literacy

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#### Collaboration with Teachers

- Collaborate with teachers in lesson planning, resource location, acquisition, or creation
- Work with individual classes to support research and academic skills

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#### Partnerships & External Collaboration

- Work with Brown University Library for grants for materials and infrastructure
- Partner with Providence Public Libraries and Community Libraries of Providence to acquire class sets, resources, and supplies
- Aid students and teachers in acquiring public library cards and accessing digital resources (ebooks, audiobooks, movies, etc.) through library apps

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#### Professional Networking & Leadership

- Meet with other high school librarians on a monthly basis
- Maintain connections with other high school librarians
- Represent PPSD on the Rhode Island Teen Book Award Committee

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#### Student Support & Mentorship

- Train and mentor student library volunteers, including National Honor Society service-hour students
- Work with individual students to address needs such as titles, genres, interests, languages, and providing space for quiet work or decompression

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#### General Library Operations & Problem Solving

- Other various activities and tasks as they arise — librarians are flexible and apply critical and creative thinking as well as problem-solving skills

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Some resources for your perusal (both have multiple resources).

Research on the Impact of School Libraries <https://www.psla.org/research-on-impact-of-school-libraries>

Investing in School Libraries and Librarians To Improve Literacy Outcomes <https://tinyurl.com/mrxidsm3>

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this letter, and the many others that you are receiving in support of school libraries and full time school librarians. We make a difference, student by student.

Sincerely,

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