

March 4, 2026

I am writing in support of Senate Bill S2078, titled The School Libraries Act.

The impact of school librarians and school libraries on student achievement is well documented and has been shared widely amidst the tremendous support for this legislation.

I would like to further emphasize how school librarians operate as essential partners in our schools by highlighting their role in the implementation of school improvement plans. As a school media specialist in my district, I have directly supported the following district improvement initiatives in my :

- Design learning experiences that embed the Cross-curricular Graduation Proficiencies for Rhode Island (collaboration, communication, problem solving & critical thinking, reflection & evaluation, and research.)
- Innovative Teaching & Leadership: Specifically, meet students' instructional needs "in a culturally relevant way that embraces diversity and multiple learning styles."
- Community Partnerships: "Encourage and expand partnerships with families and the greater community."
- School and Facilities: Provide all students with "learning spaces conducive for 21st Century education."

District goals and benchmarks are more likely to be achieved when the improvement plan's implementation includes full time school librarians as key partners. Through instruction, curriculum development, collection development, and collaborative partnerships, school media specialists are essential for students, schools, and districts to reach their full potential and achieve success.

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of the School Libraries Act to give Rhode Island students the resources and support they deserve.

Sincerely,

Elena J. Hughes  
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District 29