

To: Senate Education Committee  
From: Megan Madden  
Support 2026 -- S 2078  
Date: 3/4/2026

Dear Senate Education Committee,

My name is Megan Madden, and I am in support of The School Libraries Act (2026 -- S 2078) that would ensure a certified Library Media Specialist and access to a well-funded library.

I am in support of this bill because as a former school librarian in a Title 1 School in Providence, and now as a reading specialist at a Title 1 school, I know first-hand how essential the presence of a robust school library with a certified library media specialist is. Now, more than ever, our students need access to high-quality materials, in both print and digital form, which have been selected by a knowledgeable, trained librarian who is able to align materials to students' academic and developmental needs. The internet has no gatekeeper for quality and developmental appropriateness, and our students not only need carefully selected materials in their hands, they need to be taught the media literacy skills of discernment. That essential instruction is taught by a certified library media specialist.

Additionally, there is a vast body of evidence showing that certified librarians and equipped, current libraries raise standardized test scores. When I was hired at the Paul Cuffee School in Providence, there was neither a librarian on staff, or a physical library available to students or teachers. I was hired to build a current library collection that reflected the student population and teach a full curriculum to promote the literacy development of students and increase their digital literacy skills. There was a direct correlation between the significant increase in our reading scores and the creation of a fully functioning library and a library media teacher on staff.

Libraries and Library Media Specialists serve an invaluable role in our schools and communities. In the face of lagging literacy rates and a boundless internet riddled with unreliable sources, it is essential that we raise literate, discerning, digitally-savvy citizens. All students in Rhode Island deserve access to high quality school libraries staffed by expert librarians.

Thank you for your consideration.

Megan Madden  
Barrington