

# Centennial State Libraries

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## Kids Front and Center @your library™

### Bookmarks:

- [Do You Meet the Competition? School Library Profiles Compare Offerings](#)
- [Student Research Links Offered to State Agencies' Information](#)
- [Take Us to Your Leader: The Role of Principal Leadership](#)
- [Colorado School Supers Speak Out on Leadership Challenges](#)
- [Lamar Public Library Wins WebJunction Award](#)
- [Dolores Public Floats a Kids' Project Down the River](#)
- [Reading America Grant Program Expands](#)
- [Diversity Research Grants Available](#)
- [Children's Software and Academic Pricing Available to Libraries](#)
- [Not for the Oldies-- "Get on Board and Read"](#)
- [Students Can Be Literate About the Media, Too](#)

## Do You Meet the Competition? School Library Profiles Compare Offerings

Hours, collections, staff, budgets, instruction, collaboration—these are some of the indicators of quality (or lack thereof) for school libraries. Library Research Service has completed its School Library Profiles for the 2003-2004 school year. Profiles are meant to be used as a comparative tool for school libraries in Colorado. The results represent data received from school libraries that completed the 2003 Colorado School Library Survey. Profiles for each participating school compare individual school data with averages for schools with similar grade level and enrollment ranges. Could it be these Profiles are another tool in YOUR advocacy arsenal? Find the 2003 School Library Profiles at: [http://www.lrs.org/asp\\_school/profiles03](http://www.lrs.org/asp_school/profiles03)

## **Student Research Links Offered to State Agencies' Information**

Teachers, school media specialists, and reference staff, take note. The Colorado State Publications Library has recently made available an updated edition of the popular list of web sites from state government agencies that are useful for students doing research papers. Links are provided to government sites on topics such as government, health, history, criminal justice system, education, kids' pages, energy, outdoors/wildlife, etc. The list can be viewed at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/slstpschbib.htm>

An additional resource for student papers is the "Quick Guide to Colorado State Government Statistical Information" for links by subjects to statistics on state web sites. View at <http://www.cde.state.co.us/stateinfo/QGGovtStatistics.htm>

## **Take Us to Your Leader: The Role of Principal Leadership**

Teacher-librarians, or school library media specialists as they're also known, are part of a school's teaching staff. National and local research indicates a teacher's decision to stay at a school (important for continuity and institutional stability) largely depends upon the principal and his or her leadership in the school. A recent study, "The Role of Principal Leadership in Increasing Teacher Retention," from Charlotte Advocates for Education (CAE), a local education fund, sought to understand the relationship between principals and teacher retention. It studied local principals, particularly those in high-needs schools, who have been more successful in retaining teachers while also increasing student achievement. Key finding can be found at the link below. In addition, the report includes specific recommendations for addressing principal recruitment and hiring, principal preparation and support, as well as the recommendation to re-examine the traditional leadership structure within our schools. <http://www.advocatesfored.org/principalstudy.htm>

## **Colorado School Supers Speak Out on Leadership Challenges**

A shortage of fiscal resources, conflicting state and federal school reform mandates, and strained relationships with school boards impact the effectiveness of current superintendents, a new Colorado survey shows. These factors are contributing to high turnover and a perceived shortage of qualified candidates seeking the job, according to a new study of Colorado school superintendents just released by the Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE). Thirty percent of superintendent positions

turned over this past school year, significantly higher than in previous years. Of Colorado's 178 school districts, 53 have new district leaders this school year. CASE Executive Director Bob Tschirki said the study reveals increasing concerns about the demands on school district leaders. "At a time when strong leadership is needed for improving our education system, we should be supporting our quality leaders instead of creating barriers to their success," he said. Furthermore, Tschirki said, "The habitual addition of new regulations and the corresponding paperwork is increasingly suffocating for superintendents. This is particularly true for the majority of our superintendents in rural areas where they have little or no help in these areas. The result is less time to do the things that are important to the district, particularly focus on the education of our children." The study looked at four areas: superintendent effectiveness, recruitment and retention, school board relations, and professional development. <http://www.co-case.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=191>

(Previous two notices from the PEN Weekly NewsBlast, a free e-mail newsletter featuring school reform and school fundraising resources. View past issues at <http://www.publiceducation.org/newsblast-past.asp>. To subscribe or unsubscribe, visit: <http://www.publiceducation.org/cgi-bin/newsblastsubscribe/subscribe.asp>

The PEN NewsBlast is the property of the Public Education Network, a national association of 89 local education funds working to improve public school quality in low-income communities nationwide.

## **Lamar Public Library Wins WebJunction Award**

Congratulations to the Lamar Public Library on winning the "Building Digital Opportunities through Community Engagement " award through the WebJunction online library community portal! The library won this award because of the exemplary services that they provide to their Spanish speaking immigrant population. They have partnered with the local elementary school and community college to enhance these services. WebJunction provides quarterly awards in four categories. Sustainability is the next award program. Submissions for this category are due on March 1, 2004. For more information about the WebJunction award program and services to libraries from this Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation-funded effort, visit: <http://webjunction.org/do/Home>.

## **Dolores Public Floats a Kids' Project Down the River**

The Dolores Public Library River Readers Group (25 students in grades 5-12) are planning to put together a booklet of their favorite books past and present (a kind of River Readers' Guide to the Best Books for Kids). Kids will write short descriptions of their favorite books. Staff will compile submissions and organize the list according to age level. The finished product may be used for fund-raising! This idea originated from a member of the community who, faced with the challenge of buying a book for her niece for Christmas, was at a loss. With a collective knowledge of kids' books,

courtesy of the voracious readers with a wide variety of tastes in fiction, an interesting and useful list should result. The project is targeted for completion by winter. For information, contact Susan Localio, River Reader mentor, or Carole Arnold, Director, Dolores Public Library, 970/882-4127, [carole@fone.net](mailto:carole@fone.net).

## Reading America Grant Program Expands

Libraries for the Future, with support from MetLife Foundation, is expanding its book and film discussion series for teenagers and families, especially immigrant-Americans, that take place in public libraries. The Reading America grant program is library-based and fosters greater inter-generational understanding and communication, especially in new immigrant families. Through library collaboration with community partners, Reading America also aims to increase awareness and use of public libraries, particularly in communities experiencing significant demographic change. Grants are \$5000, and some funds must go to the community partner. All proposals must be postmarked by April 9, 2004. Contact Elissa Goldman for more information at [egoldman@lff.org](mailto:egoldman@lff.org) or [http://www.lff.org/news/RA\\_2004press.html](http://www.lff.org/news/RA_2004press.html) to download the application forms.

## Diversity Research Grants Available

The ALA Office for Diversity announces its 2004-2005 'Diversity Research Grants' Call for Proposals. Grant proposals should address one of the following three topics:

- Recruitment & Retention of Minority Students and/or Faculty in Graduate Schools of Library and Information Science
- Equity of Access and Diverse Populations
- Diversity and Library Services to Children

The Diversity Research Grant consists of a one-time \$2000 award for original research and a \$500 travel grant to attend and present at ALA Annual Conference. Three grants are awarded each year. The deadline for this year's Diversity Research Grant proposals is April 15th, 2004. See <http://www.ala.org/ala/diversity/divresearchgrants/diversityresearch.htm>

## Children's Software and Academic Pricing Available to Libraries

PSI Resources [www.psieducation.com](http://www.psieducation.com), a reseller of educational resources specializing in computer software, has announced that public and school libraries are eligible to purchase software at academic pricing. Many software programs used by

students are available at significantly reduced pricing. Examples of discounted titles include:

- Dr. Seuss ABCs
- Carmen San Diego Word
- Reader Rabbit Reading
- Arthur Math Games
- Schoolhouse Rock 1st & 2nd
- Learn to Speak French
- Learn to Speak Spanish
- Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing
- PrintMaster
- Microsoft Office 5-user pack
- Windows 2000 Server w/ 5 clients

For a complete 6 page listing, e-mail your fax number to Mark Daley, Higher Education Sales, [mark@psieducation.com](mailto:mark@psieducation.com)

## **Not for the Oldies-- “Get on Board and Read”**

Young adults 12 to 18 have until April 24 to submit an entry in the “Get on Board and Read @ your library” program for their chance to win an opportunity to meet pro skateboarder Tony Hawk. (Editorial comment: If you’re over 18, your bones are probably too brittle to make this a meaningful opportunity for you.)

To enter, teens select a book and create an entry about the message of the book and why it’s meaningful to them. Entries may be submitted in a written essay or a creative entry consisting of a poem, painting or video, and may be created individually or as a team. Each teen or team must have their librarian sponsor them in the contest by having the librarian fill out a sponsor form. More teen entries can win librarians special incentives, too, like Hershey’s Milk coupons, t-shirts, and autographed posters. Public libraries are eligible and can collaborate with local schools. For information, visit [www.hersheymilk.com/getonboard](http://www.hersheymilk.com/getonboard).

## **Students Can Be Literate About the Media, Too**

PRIME TIME TODAY announces its annual media literacy essay contest for middle school (grades 6-8) and video PSA contest for high school (grades 9-12). The theme is: “How Does the News and Its Delivery Impact My View of the World?” All information about the contests and the corresponding media literacy curriculum can be found at [www.primett.org](http://www.primett.org) School library media specialists and teachers at middle and high school levels may want to encourage their students to enter. Prizes include a digital camera by Comp USA and savings bonds.

For additional information, E-Mail: [B. McCune](mailto:B.McCune)

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