

# **FAST** **FACTS**

*Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service*

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## **AFTER SCHOOL OPERATIONS IN COLORADO LIBRARY MEDIA CENTERS**

The Library Research Service recently conducted a Fast Facts survey of Colorado library media centers (LMCs) to collect information about being open after regular school hours. LMCs that reported after school hours in the LRS annual survey were sent this survey (82 libraries). Fifty-six questionnaires (68 percent) were completed and returned.

It should come as no surprise that regular media center staff are working both normal school hours and after school, even occasionally volunteering their time.

- 54 percent are library media aides,
- 45 percent are CDE-endorsed school library media specialists, and
- 29 percent are librarians with MLS.

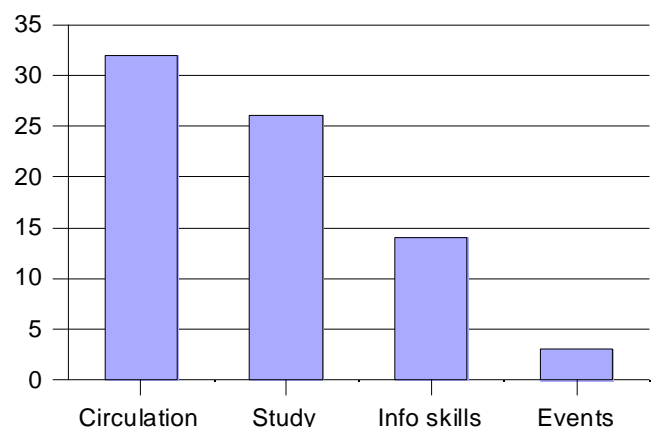
(Note: When asked about the level of staff who work after school, LMCs were invited to mark all that apply. Therefore, the above figures total more than 100 percent)

### **What are LMCs being used for after school?**

Circulation accounts for the highest level of after school use followed closely by study (i.e., on-site use of library media resources by students). In a typical week, responding libraries reported checking out an average of 32 items and enabling an average of 26 students to study. Other uses are presented in Chart 1.

<b>After School Highlights</b>	
■	91% staffed by regular staff
■	64% of after-school hours paid by school districts
■	44% of staff work additional hours for same hourly wage (the most frequent practice)
■	14% of staff volunteer their time

**Chart 1: Typical Weekly LMC Use After School Hours**

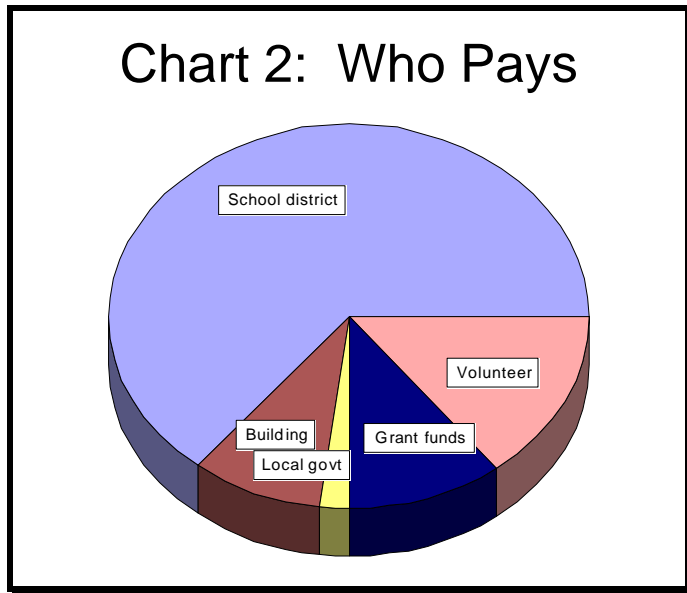


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**How much of total LMC use is accounted for by after school use?**

For 1997, total annual circulation for the state’s LMCs topped 1.1 million. Based on typical week estimates, after school circulation accounted for over 68,000 of those transactions—over six percent. For the same year, information skills instruction contacts totaled approximately 278,000 statewide--about 30,000 of which (almost 11 percent) occurred during after school hours.



**Who pays to keep library media centers open after school?**

Of respondents to this question:

- 65 percent reported the school district pays the wages of after school staff.
- 14 percent have staff who volunteer their time.
- 10 percent said grant money pays.
- 9 percent of school buildings pay.
- 2 percent reported local government covering the expense.

**How are staff who keep the LMC open**

**for use after regular school hours paid?**

Of respondents to this question:

- 44 percent have staff work additional hours for the same hourly wage.
- 42 percent have staff work after school hours (instead of regular school hours) for same hourly wage.
- 14 percent have staff work after school hours in addition to regular school hours at an overtime rate.

**SUMMARY**

- Colorado library media centers that stay open after school are almost as likely to be staffed by a library media specialist as an aide.
- Two out of three school districts pay after school staff.
- Nine out of ten pay staff to work after school at the school day rate.
- One out of seven pays after school staff at a higher overtime rate.
- After school hours provide small but significant percentages of students with a quiet, safe, supervised place to study as well as opportunities to borrow books and other materials. Students receive information skills instruction and other direct assistance from library media