

FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

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Library Media Specialists & Technology Linked to Higher CSAP Test Scores

In 1997, Colorado fourth graders were the state's first public schoolchildren to be tested on reading via the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP). Average test scores for a stratified and weighted random sample of 67 (seven percent) of Colorado's 908 elementary schools were combined with data about their library media programs to answer the following questions:

Are students likely to earn higher reading scores if:

- *their schools have state-endorsed library media specialists?*
- *their school library media specialists are supported by aides?*
- *their library media specialists play a vital instructional role, complementing the work of classroom teachers?*

Table 1 ■ Library Media Specialists, Their Activities & CSAP Reading Test Scores, Colorado Public Schools, 1996-97

Condition present/absent	Number of Responding Schools	Average 4 th Grade Reading Scores, 1997	
		Mean	Median
Library Media Staff			
Library media specialist			
■ present	32	62	67
■ absent	25	53	59
Library media specialist & aide			
■ present	36	63	66
■ absent	21	51	53
Library Media Specialist Activities			
Planning instruction with teachers			
■ present	35	58	66
■ absent	16	54	59
Information literacy instruction			
■ present	49	57	64
■ absent	2	45	45
Providing in-service training for teachers			
■ present	29	59	67
■ absent	22	54	59
Evaluating students' work			
■ present	34	58	65
■ absent	17	54	59



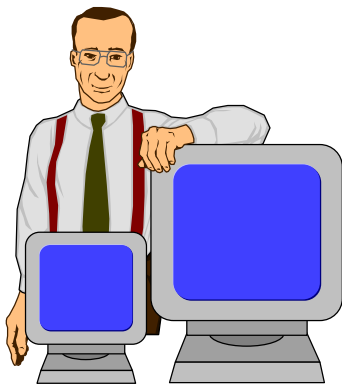
The answer to all of these questions is a resounding yes! Students in schools with well-staffed library media programs averaged reading scores five to ten points higher than those without such staffing.



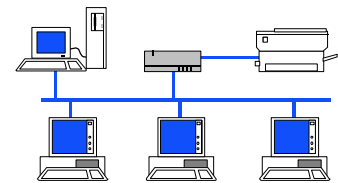
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Table 2 ■ Technology in School Library Media Centers & CSAP Reading Test Scores, Colorado Public Schools, 1996-97

Condition present/absent	Number of Responding Schools	Average 4 th Grade Reading Scores, 1997	
		Mean	Median
LMC has district-wide catalog			
■ present	18	62	66
■ absent	39	56	59
LMC provides access to online databases			
■ present	14	63	71
■ absent	43	56	64
LMC resources accessible via local area network (LAN)			
■ present	33	61	67
■ absent	24	54	54
LMC provides students access to World Wide Web			
■ present	33	59	66
■ absent	24	57	57
LMC provides students access to ACLIN			
■ present	26	62	69
■ absent	29	56	59



available data was funded by a mini-grant from the cooperative programs fund of the Colorado Regional Library Service Systems. The follow-up study is being funded by a state grant from Library Services and Technology Act funds. That study's results will be published early in the year 2000, but an early report of the findings will be made at the 1999 National Conference of the American Association of School Librarians.



*Do students earn higher reading scores if their school library media programs incorporate the latest information technology? **Again, the answer is a resounding yes.*** Average reading scores also tended to be five to ten points higher for students whose library media programs offered district-wide catalogs, online database search services, LAN access to library resources, and access to the World Wide Web, particularly the Access Colorado Library and Information Network (ACLIN).

Answers to these questions were sought as part of the preliminary analysis of available data to be used in a new Library Research Service study, **How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards.** This study is Colorado's follow-up to its landmark 1992-93 study, **The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement.** This initial review of