

FAST **FACTS**

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

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Smaller Secondary Schools Less Likely to Meet North Central Association Staffing Requirements for Library Media Programs

One of the few categories in which the North Central Association specifies quantitative requirements for middle and secondary schools is staffing. Among the categories of staffing included is library media.

The requirements are, by almost any definition, extremely modest: a half time library media specialist in schools with enrollments of 1000 and less, and a full-time specialist only in schools with enrollments exceeding 1000.

Statewide, one out of three Colorado middle and secondary schools does not meet these requirements.

The likelihood that a school meets this requirement also drops steadily with the level of enrollment. Consider the extremes:

- If a child attends a school with an enrollment of 700 to 999, there is only a one in ten chance there will not be requisite library media staff.
- If a child attends a school with an enrollment of under 300, there is a two out of three chance requisite library media staff will be absent.

The all-too-predictable relationship between enrollment and NCA-required library media staffing indicates a serious equity issue for Colorado schools. This situation is all the more troubling knowing that a predictable consequence of the absence of such staff is lower average test scores. See **FAST FACTS** No. 141, *Library Media Specialists & Technology Linked to Higher CSAP Test Scores*, as well as **The Impact of School Library Media Centers on Academic Achievement** (CDE, 1992; Hi Willow, 1993). For links to these and other relevant resources, visit the Library Research Service web site, www.lrs.org.

Colorado Secondary Schools Not Meeting NCA Library Media Staffing Requirements, 1996-97*

Enrollment	Number	Not Meeting Library Media Staffing Requirements	
		Number	Percent
1000 and over	97	0	0.0
700-999	97	9	9.3
500-699	65	9	13.8
300-499	83	36	43.4
Under 300	185	120	64.9
Total	528	174	33.0

* For enrollments under 1000, the NCA requirement is 0.5 FTE. For enrollments over 1000, it is 1.0 FTE.

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