

# FAST FACTS

Recent Statistics from The Library Research Service

ED3/110.10/No. 150

October 7, 1998

## Well-Managed Library Media Programs That Cooperate With Local Public Libraries Linked to Higher CSAP Test Scores

**Table 1 ■ Library Media Program Management Practices, School-Public Library Relationships & CSAP Reading Test Scores, Colorado Public Schools, 1997**

Condition present/absent	Number of Responding Schools	Average 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Scores, 1997 *	
		Mean	Median
Plan for development of LM program			
■ Yes	38	58	67
■ No	14	55	59
Collection development or materials selection policy			
■ Yes	43	61	67
■ No	11	47	48
Relationship between LM program & local PL			
■ Yes	41	61	64
■ No	16	50	62
PL staff presents book talks at LMC			
■ Yes	7	64	73
■ No	50	57	63
Summer reading program offered by local PL			
■ Yes	35	59	66
■ No	22	56	57

\* Scores indicate the combined percentage of students who scored at proficient and advanced levels.



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 74 (eight 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:*

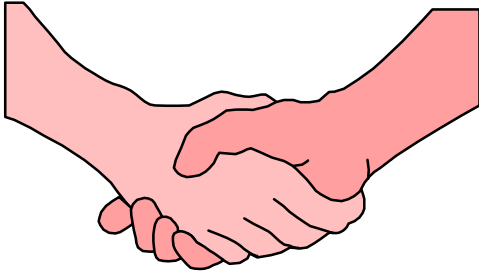
- *there is a plan for the development of their school's library media program?*
- *there is a collection development policy that guides the library media specialist's selection of learning resources?*
- *there is a relationship between the school library media program and the local public library?*
- *public library staff visit the library media center to present book talks?*
- *the local public library provides a summer reading program to prevent the loss of reading skills progress during the break between school years?*

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**The answer to all of these questions is a resounding yes!** Students in schools with well-planned library media programs and well-documented collection development policies, and whose relationships with public libraries include book talks and summer reading programs averaged reading scores up to 15 points higher than those without such LM programs.