

FAST FACTS

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The Status of Salaries for School Library Media Specialists & Aides in Colorado, 1999



In 1999, the median salary for a full-time endorsed school library media specialist in Colorado was \$35,750. This salary is on a par with what the state recommended for housekeeping supervisors and plumbing inspectors.

Half of these LM specialists earned between \$28,900 and \$41,900. At the low end, this salary range is comparable to state-recommended pay for traffic signal technicians and lottery sales representatives. At the high end, this pay level is

comparable to recommended pay for food service managers.

Ten percent of LM specialists earned less than \$21,000, and only ten percent of them earned more than \$48,000. The lowest paid ten percent have earnings comparable to the minimum salary the state recommends for telephone operators, bus drivers, and dental assistants. The top paid ten percent are paid comparably to physical therapists, highway maintenance superintendents, and landscape architects.

Salaries for library media aides for 1999 tended to be approximately one-third of what library media specialists were paid. In 1999, the median salary for a full-time library media aide was \$12,850. Half of LM aides earned between \$10,500 and \$15,250 that year. Ten percent were paid less than \$10,000 and only 10 percent were paid more than \$17,000.



These salaries are strikingly low, particularly considering that 372 of the state's 1,130 library media aides—almost one third—work without the immediate supervision of an endorsed library media specialist—effectively functioning in place of that professional educator.

At these levels, most LM aides were paid less than entry-level food service workers and security guards.

Sources:

- Unpublished data from the Colorado Department of Education Research and Evaluation Unit.
- Colorado Department of Personnel, 1999 **Total Compensation Survey, State of Colorado** (December 1998). GSS2.10/1999.

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