



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Philip C. Cleveland, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent
of Education

June 28, 2016

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MEMORANDUM

TO: City and County Superintendents of Education

FROM: Philip C. Cleveland *PCC*
Interim State Superintendent of Education

RE: Alabama Library Media Services

The Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE) acknowledges that effective school Library Media programs improve student learning. The value, impact, and services that well supported school libraries, staffed by a certified Library Media Specialist, add to the lives of Alabama students are tremendous. Effective school librarians provide more than just access to books. They serve as a literacy leader, instructional partner, information specialist, teacher, and program administrator within their role. They lead in building 21st century skills by collaborating with teachers to provide support for critical thinking, inquiry, digital literacy, and technology; foster the love of reading; and help students prepare to enter the workplace.

Acknowledging the importance of the School Library Media Specialist, the ALSDE is committed to fostering relationships within the school setting that will benefit student achievement. Improving our proficiency in K-12 reading cannot be limited to one particular content area or teacher. Collaboration between teachers, librarians, reading specialists, and administrators is even more important than before. Library Media goals for the upcoming year will focus on the following:

- Fostering administrator support and awareness for implementing the cross-walked Library Media 21st Century Learner standards to support the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards in Grades K-12.
- Creating partnerships at the state and local level between Media Specialists and ARI Reading Specialists.
- Building relationships and coordinating efforts between the literacy stakeholders within schools and in the community that will positively affect student achievement.

Administrator awareness and support for implementation of these standards are very important.

As commitment to the process of continuing excellence and transforming Library Media services, the ALSDE is allocating personnel dedicated to facilitating statewide Library Media Specialist/Center development. Mrs. Dede Coe will serve as the contact for Library Media Services for the ALSDE beginning on June 16, 2016. Mrs. Coe has over 14 years of combined public and school library experience. She was named as an outstanding rural librarian by the

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Gates Foundation and represented Alabama at the American Library Association Conference. Mrs. Coe currently serves as an Education Specialist with the Instructional Services Section.

Library Media resources will be available for librarians and administrators in the near future on the Instructional Services Web site. Please contact Mrs. Coe with any questions or requests that you have in regards to your Library Media program. Mrs. Coe may be reached by telephone at (334) 353-1191 or by e-mail at dcoe1@alsde.edu.

Listed below are informational references:

For information on the Library Media Specialist's Role in Reading, view the link below to reference the American Library Association's *Position Statement on the School Librarian's Role in Reading*:

<http://www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/resources/statements/reading-role>

For information on the role of the Administrator in the Library Media program, download the brochure from the American School Library Association's link at:

http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/aaslissues/brochures/administrators_panels-color.pdf

For information regarding possible upcoming opportunities for School Librarians within the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), view the following link:

http://www.ala.org/aasl/sites/ala.org.aasl/files/content/aaslissues/esea/ALA-ESSA_Library_Opportunities.pdf

PCC/DDC/LM

cc: Dr. Mark Kirkemier; Mrs. Shanthia M. Washington; Mrs. Robin A. Nelson;
Mrs. Karen Porter; Mrs. Dede D. Coe

FY16-2073