



Iowa School Library Program Standards Guidance

Introduction

Assistance to local school districts in developing school library programs was last published in 2007. With new national standards developed in 2017 and renewed emphasis on literacy instruction in the state, a group of talented professionals integrated the national standards with Iowa Code, Iowa Administrative Rules and best practice to produce the document of school library program standards. These standards are a subset of the national standards that have been operationalized to help Iowa schools develop and implement quality school library programs.

Library Programs in Iowa Code

Iowa Code describes the minimum requirements for library programs in the state. See the following sections. The new Library Program Standards Document includes voluntary program standards which help districts move beyond compliance to committing to a successful quality library program.

[Iowa Code 256.11\(9\)](#) Beginning July 1, 2006, each school district shall have a qualified teacher librarian who shall be licensed by the board of educational examiners under chapter 272. The state board shall establish in rule a definition of and standards for **an articulated sequential kindergarten through grade twelve media program**. A school district that entered into a contract with an individual for employment as a media specialist or librarian prior to June 1, 2006, shall be considered to be in compliance with this subsection until June 30, 2011, if the individual is making annual progress toward meeting the requirements for a teacher librarian endorsement issued by the board of educational examiners under chapter 272. A school district that entered into a contract with an individual for employment as a media specialist or librarian who holds at least a master's degree in library and information studies shall be considered to be in compliance with this subsection until the individual leaves the employ of the school district.

[Iowa Administrative Code 281 12.2 \(256\)](#) Library program means an articulated, sequential kindergarten through grade 12 library or media program that enhances student achievement and is integral to the school district's curricula and instructional program. The library program is planned and implemented by a qualified teacher librarian working collaboratively with the district's administration and instructional staff. The library program services provided to students and staff shall include the following:

1. Support of the overall school curricula;
2. Collaborative planning and teaching;
3. Promotion of reading and literacy;
4. Information literacy instruction;
5. Access to a diverse and appropriate school library collection; and
6. Learning enhancements through technologies.

[Iowa Administrative Code 281 12.3\(12\)](#) a. A qualified teacher librarian, licensed by the board of educational examiners, who works with students, teachers, support staff and administrators shall direct the library program and provide services and instruction in support of the curricular goals of each attendance center. The teacher librarian shall be a member of the attendance center instructional team with special expertise in identifying resources and technologies to support teaching and learning. The teacher librarian and classroom

teachers shall collaborate to develop, teach, and evaluate attendance center curricular goals with emphasis on promoting inquiry and critical thinking; providing information literacy learning experiences to help students access, evaluate, use, create, and communicate information; enhancing learning and teaching through technology; and promoting literacy through reader guidance and activities that develop capable and independent readers.

b. The library program shall be regularly reviewed and revised and shall be designed to meet the following goals:

1. To provide for methods to improve library collections to meet student and staff needs;
2. To make connections with parents and the community;
3. To support the district's school improvement plan;
4. To provide access to or support for professional development for the teacher librarian;
5. To provide current technology and electronic resources to ensure that students become skillful and discriminating users of information;
6. To include a current and diverse collection of fiction and nonfiction materials in a variety of formats to support student and curricular needs; and
7. To include a plan for annually updating and replacing library materials, supports, and equipment.

c. The board of directors of each school district shall adopt policies to address selection and reconsideration of school library materials; confidentiality of student library records; and legal and ethical use of information resources, including plagiarism and intellectual property rights.

How to Read and Use Iowa's Library Program Standards

The document has two sections: **Teaching and Learning** (heading highlighted in yellow) and **Library Management** (heading highlighted in orange). The 1 point column reflects minimal code requirements, while the Anchor and subsequent point columns represent the characteristics of successful library programs that improve student outcomes and support local teaching staff. This document may be used by teacher librarians and leadership teams to discuss how Library Programs can support continuous improvement, especially universal instruction and local infrastructure. It was developed in the same format as the **SAMI** Self-Assessment of MTSS Implementation

The standards are designed to be used as a needs assessment tool for leadership teams to understand the status of the school library program, as well as identify areas where the teacher librarian and library program will support current continuous improvement areas of focus.

Membership of the building or district leadership team is a local decision, but inclusion of the teacher librarian, administrator, and teacher representatives of all subgroups is recommended. Team members should review and reflect individually prior to coming together for discussion. After collaboratively determining current status, the team develops an action plan to move the library program further along the continuum and support student learning.

As teams engage with Iowa's Library Program Standards for the purpose of continuous improvement, they will also meet some of the requirements of Iowa Code. For more specifics about meeting Iowa Code in Library Programs, please contact: [School Improvement Consultant](#).

Additional Guidance

[National School Library Standards](#) displays standards developed by the American Association of School Librarians.