

Success for Students through TUSD School Library Programs

A Position Paper Prepared by the TUSD Teacher-Librarians Advocacy Group

TUSD Vision:

Tucson Unified School District is a professional learning community that ensures every student learns, exceeds all expected performance standards, graduates, and is able to compete and succeed in a global economy.

TUSD Teacher-Librarians are integral to this TUSD Vision.

School library programs are the heart of TUSD's learning community and the hub of its schools. TUSD teacher-librarians:

- Ensure universal access to literature (Krashen, 2004) and information in a variety of formats, including technology (AASL & AECT, 1998).
- Coteach with every teacher to address site-based achievement goals and standards-based curricula.

TUSD Mission:

The mission of the Tucson Unified School District, in partnership with parents and the greater community, is to assure that each pre-K through 12th grade student receives an engaging, rigorous and comprehensive education.

TUSD Teacher-Librarians are integral to this TUSD Mission.

Teacher-librarians:

- Collaborate with all teachers to develop curricula and integrate resources into teaching and learning in order to increase student achievement.
- Build bridges among students, parents, and community to connect curricula with relevant issues in the local and global communities.

Selected TUSD Strategic Priority:

Student achievement is our primary focus.

TUSD Teacher-Librarians are integral to increasing Student Achievement.

The library is a unique classroom where professional teacher-librarians:

- Teach students to locate, analyze, evaluate, and use information and ideas to construct knowledge (TUSD, 2005).
- Develop library resources that meet the instructional needs of each individual school learning community.
- Foster lifelong learning and prepare students to compete in the global economy.

Note: Nineteen separate research studies conducted over the past fifteen years have demonstrated that there is a positive correlation between increased student achievement, particularly in reading, and the work of professional teacher-librarians who collaborate for instruction with classroom teachers (Library Research Service, 2008; Scholastic Research & Results, 2008).

Selected TUSD Strategic Priority:

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) exist and are supported at all levels.

TUSD Teacher-Librarians are integral to effective PLCs.

As key members of PLCs who work with all teachers to improve student achievement, teacher-librarians:

- Have a unique overview of the school environment, curriculum, and culture.
- Practice collaborative planning and coteaching to promote the integration of research-based instructional practices essential for school reform (Hord, 1997; Todd, 2007).

In order to achieve this level of service to the TUSD learning community, at least one full-time professional teacher-librarian is required at each school site (SKILLS Act, 2007).

References

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