

Support HB2321/SB2574

Reinstate a school library coordinator at the Department of Education so that every school in Tennessee has the expert leadership and support it needs to advance the goals set by TN Best for All.

A State Coordinator of School Libraries will...



Provide professional development

The coordinator will ensure that school librarians advance the state's educational goals, provide standards-based instruction, and align their work to meaningful evaluation measures.



Provide professional leadership

The coordinator monitors and shares data, trends, initiatives, and best practices to strengthen teaching and learning across the state. They review and update professional licensure requirements.



Guide the selection of high quality materials

They help schools and districts avail themselves of resources already available to them—such as the digital collections at the Tennessee State Library—and create opportunities for cost savings through resource sharing.

“The school librarians’ contributions, whether direct or indirect, are consistently shown to be of positive value to not only students and teachers, but the wider school community.”

Roles of the School Librarian: Empowering Student Learning and Success (2019)



Provide access to a high quality education

The coordinator's work benefits schools and learners universally; but it is particularly essential in rural and under-resourced communities, where school librarians may not have the support of other professional school librarians.



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A STATE COORDINATOR OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES SUPPORTS TN BEST FOR ALL



ACADEMICS:

All Tennessee students will have access to a high-quality education, no matter where they live.

- Access to a school library and a certified school librarian are part of a high quality education.
- Librarians help select high quality educational materials.
- Librarians support early literacy.
- Librarians collaborate with teachers and guidance counselors to provide resources and guidance in career exploration for students.



WHOLE CHILD:

Tennessee public schools will be equipped to serve the academic and non-academic needs of all kids.

- Librarians serve all students in a school community.
- Librarians select resources that support all learning needs and interests of students.



EDUCATORS:

Tennessee will set a new path for the education profession and be the top state to become and remain a teacher and leader.

- School librarians must have a Master's degree, therefore school librarians have a higher level of education.
- Through their knowledge of best practices in literacy, information literacy, and technology, librarians offer a unique skill set and are valuable leaders in their school communities.