

# Education supported by Wisconsin libraries

## Wisconsin learners directly benefit from Wisconsin libraries:

- ◆ Research shows that schools with full-time certified library media specialists and full-time library aides have higher performance on the WKCE.
- ◆ Schools where the library media specialist spends more time on instruction-related student and teacher activities have higher WKCE scores.
- ◆ Schools with greater library media program resources for collections and technology have higher performance on the WKCE.
- ◆ Studies reveal that a child's participation in a summer library reading program at a local public library results in maintenance of reading levels; no "summer slide" means more learning in the next school year.
- ◆ The public libraries serve lifelong learners with programs focused on current affairs, humanities and literature as well as training on computers, online job searches, resume writing, and much more.
- ◆ Library resources in academic institutions support research, fueling the fastest growing segments of Wisconsin's economy in biotechnology, agriculture, bio-fuels, and green business initiatives.
- ◆ Libraries provide online and print study tools for the GED, ACT, TOEFL, GRE and other major educational and career-development exams. Increasingly, libraries are test sites for the exams and offer test-proctoring services.

## Wisconsin libraries merit strong legislative support:

- ◆ Support the statutory use of the Common School Fund, which enables the purchase of instructional materials and technology for school libraries, and additional funding for educational technology infrastructure (e.g., computer servers, high quality broadband access).
- ◆ Support increased funding of the University of Wisconsin System libraries, including the Research Commons Initiative.
- ◆ Support the employment of at least one full-time certified school librarian and appropriate support staff in every school; support additional professional and support staff in schools of 650 students or more: support updated standards for school library media centers.
- ◆ Support funding to continue BadgerLink to help learners in a wide range of disciplines at home, work and school.
- ◆ Support funding for appropriate service levels for statewide special collections and services including: the Wisconsin Talking Books and Braille Library, Cooperative Children's Book Center, Wisconsin Library Services (WiLS) and Milwaukee Public Library / Interlibrary Loan.

## Quick stats

In a statewide study of K-12 schools, researchers found a direct connection between student performance on the state's standardized WKCE exam (Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examination) and the quality and staffing of a school's library media center.

BadgerLink provides access to 49 databases, including about 20,000 magazines, newspapers, books and other materials. Statewide coordination of this service saves Wisconsin taxpayers at least \$45 million over what the cost would be if local libraries purchased these resources independently.

---

For more information, contact Lisa Strand, WLA Executive Director.

**Email:** [strand@scls.lib.wi.us](mailto:strand@scls.lib.wi.us)

**Phone:** 608-245-3640

