



Massachusetts School Library Association

Massachusetts Library Association Youth Services Section

Joint Statement

School/Public Library Services to Children A Common Purpose with Similarities and Differences

Common Purposes or Goals:

- ❖ Introduce, promote, and encourage children to love and appreciate reading and good literature
- ❖ Develop capable critical users of information and technology
- ❖ Improve listening skills
- ❖ Foster visual literacy
- ❖ Assist children in understanding themselves and their world
- ❖ Encourage each child to develop to his/her fullest potential
- ❖ Develop life long learners

In order to accomplish these goals, each type of library provides a safe welcoming environment with appropriate resources, and a caring, knowledgeable, well trained staff.

Although each type of library works in similar ways toward similar goals, differences exist.

Users

Public Library
General public including: infant, preschool and school age children, young adults, college students, parents, adults, and professionals serving children (authors, publishers, illustrators, editors, teachers, professors, child care providers)

School Library

Specific audience including:
Students preK-12
Teachers
Parents
Administrators
Parent volunteers
School support staff

Collection

Based on overall community needs:
Supports recreational interests
Reinforces homework assignments
Provides popular materials
Supports the needs of adults serving children

Based on curriculum and instructional needs:
Implements the curriculum
Complements course work
Supports units of study
Provides for limited recreational needs
Supports the needs of faculty and staff

Service to Users

Reader recommendations
Homework assignments
Community networking
Community outreach (off site programs)
Interlibrary loan
Year round and after school programming (story hours, entertainment, arts & crafts, book discussion groups, author/illustrator visits, summer reading program)

Instruction in information/research skills and use of information technology
School/education organization networking
Curriculum planning & development
Team teaching
Distance learning programs/courses
Resource and literature recommendations
Education technology assistance
School year programs (book fairs, story hour, book discussion groups, author/illustrator visits)

Primary Role of Librarian

Providing access to books, information, and programming which support community needs

Teaching the process of information retrieval, research, and interpretation, and providing resources that support the educational program.

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To meet the needs of the entire community, both school and public libraries are required. The similar and different missions, resources, staff, and programs provide the full range of resources, materials and services necessary for each child to develop to his/her fullest potential through lifelong learning. Therefore, MLA/ CIS and MSLA encourage cooperation, support resource sharing, and promote each other's programs and services to and for all children.