



# Qualified Teacher-Librarians Make a Difference!



WASHINGTON  
LIBRARY  
ASSOCIATION

# What is a Qualified Teacher-Librarian?



A qualified Teacher-Librarian is a **credentialed teacher** with specific training in how to run high-quality school library programs.

Teacher-Librarians curate collections, teach research and digital literacy, and foster curiosity through programs. They also support teachers in instruction and technology integration.

**Decades of research document the student benefits of access to qualified Teacher-Librarians**, including improved test scores and better college/career preparedness.

To review the research on the impact of qualified teacher-librarians, please visit [bit.ly/K12Librarians4AllWA](https://bit.ly/K12Librarians4AllWA)





# Ask who is in the library!

Funding for qualified Teacher-Librarians and library materials is part of Washington's prototypical funding model. RCW [28A.320.240](#) states that on-site qualified Teacher-Librarians should staff school library technology programs.

Regrettably, many districts in Washington utilize a loophole that permits them to remove school librarians and use school library funding for other purposes. This practice deprives students of the numerous documented academic and social-emotional benefits of access to qualified Teacher-Librarians.

**Find out who runs your school library program and what training they have had.**

**Our students deserve access to qualified Teacher-Librarians!**

# More than Books!

We love books and helping kids find books they will love--but we provide so much more!

In addition to supporting literacy in the school, Qualified Teacher-Librarians:

- teach students to balance their use of technology with “real” life,
- show students how to find, evaluate, and ethically use resources,
- provide essential support to classroom teachers, especially with digital resources, lesson planning, and technology, and
- create safe spaces where all students can learn and explore.



# Washington's School Library Report Card:

Washington is ranked 32nd in the nation for the student to Teacher-Librarian ratio. School library staffing in Washington has been slowly declining for over a decade. In 2019, there was a sharp drop of 10.5%. This worrying trend continued with a decrease of 31.3% in 2020, 28.9% in 2021, and 25.9% in 2022.

**It's crucial that we focus on improving school library staffing for all WA students!**

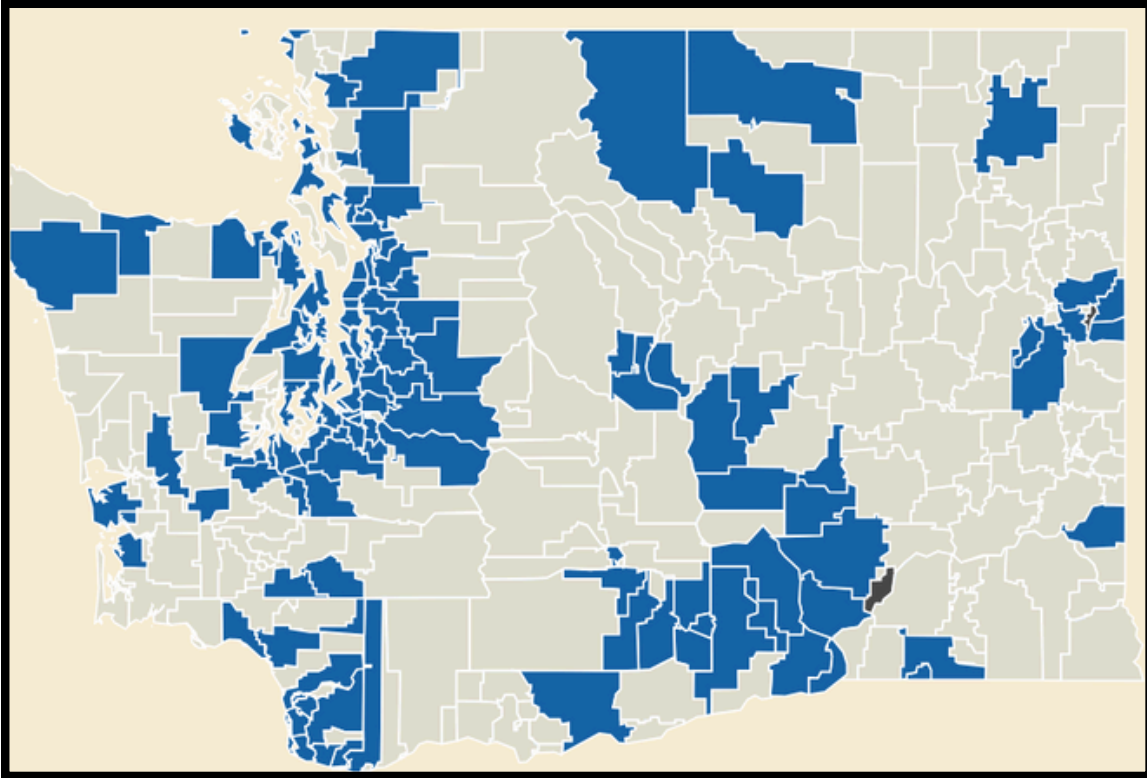


## An Equity Issue:

Students who experience poverty, are from historically marginalized populations, or live in rural communities are least likely to have access to qualified Teacher-Librarians. However, even affluent areas like Bellevue have quietly replaced qualified Teacher-Librarians with clerks. Many schools staff libraries part-time, limiting the impact of the library program on student achievement.

# Does your school library have a Teacher-Librarian?

**Library-Media Training Matters!**



Only the districts in blue reported employing at least 1 part-time Teacher-Librarian in 2021-22, per Libslide.org.

**Become a Library Advocate!**

[www.wla.org/campaigns](http://www.wla.org/campaigns)



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