

**Voices of Decision-Makers**  
*How District & School Leaders Decide About School Librarian Employment*

Core of Data is long overdue. Notably, for the NTPS surveys, there appear to be no definitions at all for terms such as “school librarian” and “technology specialist.” The lack of such definitions seriously compromises the comparability of NTPS data from school to school.

## **Future Research**

The following future studies are recommended on the basis of findings from the entire SLIDE project:

- Qualitative study of school administrators’ expectations of school librarians.
- Assessment of the instruction of information literacy/library curricula in the absence of school librarians—who teaches it, how consistently, at what grade levels, and how competencies are assessed.
- Review of the inclusion or absence of school libraries and librarians in the evaluative criteria of K-12 accreditation agencies and award-nominating agencies (e.g., Blue Ribbon).
- Exploration of ways in which the two major national teachers’ unions support school librarian positions (including how many school librarians are members of these unions).
- Analysis of how projects funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Innovative Approaches to Literacy competitive grant program has impacted school librarian staffing.
- Study comparing the impact on student learning when a library is staffed with a paraprofessional versus a certified school librarian.
- District studies of the average number of days/hours that school libraries are open to all students and staff at different educational levels--elementary, middle and high school (how temporary assignments of librarians to cover classes as substitutes or other duties occurs and how frequently).
- Study of the effectiveness of school library services provided by degreed and certified school librarians compared with teachers who earn school library certification by passing a test, such as the Library Media PRAXIS test (with no library coursework).
- Study of state-endorsed and enforced information/media or similar curricula, who teaches it, and how student achievement of skills is assessed.
- Study of library budgets, print collection size and age, and access to subscription-based digital resources in schools with certified school librarians versus schools without certified school librarians.
- Study of alternative and expanded uses of school library spaces in the absence of librarians and who manages them.