



March 4, 2017

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To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of our members, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on Ohio's ESSA Draft Submission. We believe that our understanding of how highly effective school library programs positively influence student achievement is a vital - but currently missing - voice in the *Consolidated State Plan Under the Every Student Succeeds Act*.

School libraries and school library programs are uniquely situated to address the important concerns outlined in the federal ESSA legislation, including issues of equity, cultural integration, college and career readiness, and a well-rounded education that leads to student success.

- Under Title I, licensed school library media specialists and access to highly effective school library programs affect student achievement, digital literacy skills, and school climate/culture.
- Under Title II, Part A, licensed school library media specialists share their learning with other professionals when they attend conferences and workshops, applying the benefits of new techniques, strategies, and technologies to their entire district. We are collaborators with faculty and administrators, enabling our colleagues to leverage resources across the curriculum.
- Under Title II, Part B, Subpart 1, licensed school library media specialists are uniquely suited to lead the effort in applying for competitive grants because of their expertise and access to strong professional learning networks.
- Under Title IV, Part A, licensed school library media specialists increase access to personalized, rigorous learning experiences supported by technology, allowing equitable access for all students.

We believe that every student can learn and must have a highly effective teacher in every classroom. The library is the largest classroom in the school and must have a highly effective school library media specialist with a paraprofessional in it, along with current and sufficient materials. This constitutes an effective school library program.

Our specific recommendations for areas to include licensed school library media specialists and highly effective school library programs in the Ohio ESSA plan are attached. If you have any specific questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Liz Deskins

Liz Deskins
ESSA Task Force Committee Chair

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