

**MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED TO
THE LOS ANGELES CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR CONSIDERATION**

SUBJECT: Supporting Educational Equity and Student Achievement through Expanded Access to Libraries

DATE NOTICED: 01-14-14

PRESENTED FOR ACTION: 02-11-14

PRESENTED BY: Ms. Ratliff, Dr. Vladovic

MOVED/SECONDED BY: Ms. Ratliff/
Mr. Kayser

MOTION:

RESOLUTION: x

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District and Governing Board are committed to creating academic environments for students to flourish and to build a culture of curiosity and a community of life-long learners¹;

Whereas, The Common Core State Standards emphasize that “To be ready for college, workforce training, and life in a technological society, students need the ability to gather, comprehend, evaluate, synthesize, and report on information and ideas, to conduct original research in order to answer questions or solve problems, and to analyze and create a high volume and extensive range of print and nonprint texts in media forms old and new”²;

Whereas, In 2012-2013, less than half (48 percent) of District students were proficient or advanced in English Language Arts, 9 percentage points below the state average³;

Whereas, Research studies show that access to print materials improves children’s reading skills and improves attitudes toward reading and learning⁴;

Whereas, Reading at grade-level by the end of third grade is the most important predictor of school success and high school graduation;

Whereas, A study of California school library programs and student achievement shows that test scores tend to be significantly higher for schools that have full-time certificated librarians⁵;

Whereas, Librarians and library aides cultivate and curate information resources, teach information literacy skills, collaborate with faculty, and work with students to establish a foundation for life-long learning;

Whereas, Currently, the District has only 98 out of a total of 726 school libraries staffed by a certificated teacher-librarian, and only 296 schools have at least one library aide; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District promotes and supports student achievement through the development of textual and digital literacy skills, and by ensuring equitable access to texts in diverse media;

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Resolved further, That the Board recognizes the importance of libraries as resource centers that provide the space and opportunity for students to both learn at an individual and cooperative level within and outside of the assigned curriculum;

Resolved further, That the Board recognizes the importance of librarians and library aides as integral to schools to help students learn to access, explore, utilize and appreciate ideas, information, and literature, both textual and digital;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent to establish a Modern Libraries Task Force comprised of a representative from each of the following:

- Integrated Library and Textual Support Services
- Office of Curriculum, Instruction and School Support
- Parent and Community Services Branch
- United Teachers Los Angeles – Library Professionals Committee
- California School Employees Association
- Los Angeles Public Libraries
- University of California, Los Angeles Graduate School of Education and Information Studies
- At least one literacy-focused not-for-profit entity for the purpose of developing a framework by which the District can guarantee all students access to an adequately stocked and staffed modern school library;
- Los Angeles County Public Libraries and, be it finally

Resolved, That the Superintendent and Task Force will issue a report within 90 days and/or prior to the creation of the 2014-2015 budget outlining recommendations for achieving the aforementioned goals. The report shall focus on:

- Outlining the current state of school libraries in the District, with regards to staffing, book collections, and technical capabilities.
- Defining the role of libraries, librarians, and library aides in support of the Common Core State Standards and the District's Common Core Technology Project.
- Funding sources for staffing libraries and increasing access to high quality resources for students throughout the District.
- Exploring potential collaboration with the Los Angeles Public Library system and charitable organizations.
- Proposing alternative plans for making libraries accessible to students at schools throughout the District.
- Identifying and prioritizing communities with highest need for library services.