School Library Services in Context of the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation: The 5Rs
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Relationships
Effective school library services provided by a certified school librarian provide support and instruction for the school community in the following areas.
- information sources, digital learning opportunities, and literacy
- ethical technology use
- classroom content area learning
- inquiry
- advanced study
- professional work
- community participation

Relevance
Effective school library services provided by a certified school librarian are essential for student achievement and personal, academic, and career success, particularly in the following areas.
- reading
- written and oral communication
- critical thinking
- information literacy skills
- technology skills
- the State Board’s goals for successful high school graduates

Further, school librarians are skilled in gathering, analyzing and using student and program level data to drive decision-making pertaining to the KESA system’s successful implementation of its action plan, data substantiating growth in student success, and data demonstrating growth in the five areas of Kansas Can, State Board outcomes.

Responsive Culture
Effective school library services provided by a certified school librarian contribute to a responsive (open, approachable) culture in the following ways.
- providing all members of the school community equitable access to information and technology
- engaging all learners with relevant information resources and digital opportunities, initiating and sustaining motivational reading initiatives, and providing access to high-quality reading material in a variety of formats
- providing problem solving and creative opportunities in a flexible space

Rigor
Effective school library services provided by a certified school librarian contribute to rigorous teaching and learning through alignment of information and technology literacy learning outcomes to all other outcomes.
- content standards and outcomes
- local system-wide action plans and goals

Results
The Kansas certified school librarian is a collaborative partner with other teachers who actively contributes to the State Board’s goals for successful Kansas high school graduates. The Kansas Curricular Content Standards Library, Information, and Technology Standards (2016) provide measurable learning outcomes that demonstrate and substantiate student growth across all grade levels and in all five Kansas Can, the State Board outcome areas.

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Research-based evidence collected and published over the past decade indicates that in Kansas where schools maintained higher and more stable staffing levels of professional school librarians, the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) data reveals higher school proficiency rates. This suggests that school librarians are important in all schools toward achieving the goals of the new accreditation model for Kansas. Investing in school librarians is an investment in achieving the goals of the KESA K-12 accrediting model.

A Kansas school librarian is a teacher with classroom teaching experience and specialized training in resource acquisition and use, technology, research, instruction, and leadership. As qualified teachers, school librarians provide interlinked, interdisciplinary, and cross-cutting roles as instructional leaders, program administrators, collaborative partners, and information specialists.

As manager of the school library, the Kansas licensed school librarian ensures that the school library environment provides all members of the school community access to information and technology.

School librarians support a quality growth process that extends to members of the community and engages stakeholders at all levels. School librarians are essential in schools that move from implementing and transitioning to modeling the 5Rs (KESA).

References
American Association of School Librarians, Research and Statistics.
www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/research


Kansas Department of Education, Kansas Education Systems Accreditation: The 5Rs. www.ksde.org

Kansas Can, Board Vision for Kansas Education. www.ksde.org


For more information, please see Kansas Association of School Librarians www.ksschoollibrarians.org/

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