

“Best Sellers”

The CSLA "Best Sellers" Campaign enlists Californians of all ages to communicate the important message that strong school libraries improve student academic success, regardless of the economic status of a school's community. In your role as a “Best Seller” we ask you to communicate three messages:

1. **Define the 5 elements of a strong school library.** *Enable others to ask key questions and build strong school libraries for California students. Knowledge is power.*
2. **Students deserve equitable access to library resources.** *Not all students have access to a library program, let alone a strong school library program.*
3. **California is developing standards.** *This is great news, because standards provide blueprints for strong school libraries. Complying with standards is a local decision. Help schools make the right decision for our students.*

A strong school library program is the cornerstone of a healthy school. School libraries require buy-in from administrators, programs based on state standards, enactment of state and national literacy standards, high visibility, and strong, committed advocates – like you!

Strong School Libraries

Here are five questions you can ask in order to better understand if a school has a strong library program.

Does the library have:

- ★ **A full time, certified school Teacher Librarian and a full-time paraprofessional working as a team?** *This allows the teacher librarian to collaborate with teachers in co-designing instruction which incorporates information literacy into the curriculum.*
- ★ **Lots of carefully selected books, databases, and other learning resources?** *Resources must reflect the school curriculum and student recreational reading needs.*
- ★ **A program which provides instruction and activities for students to use the research process in finding the information they need?** *Research is a process, not an end product – it is the thinking process*

which the students benefit from, not the ultimate "find." The "find" is generally forgotten – while the process remains with them forever.

- ★ **Technology, including hardware, software, and networking that form a virtual library without walls linking students to the world of information, a cybrary that fully supports the school curriculum, 24/7.**
- ★ **Its doors open before, during and after school hours, with liberal circulation policies?** *This means access to the school library, its resources, and staff.*

Why Strong School Libraries?

1. Improve student achievement*
2. Foster literacy
3. Produce a tech savvy workforce
4. Nurture life-long learning
5. Create engaged citizens
6. Ensure a better future

*Research: See <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/lb/research.asp>

“Best Sellers” Questions & Answers

Q: What is the California School Library Association "Best Sellers" Campaign?

A: The California School Library Association's "Best Sellers" Campaign for Strong School Libraries is a public awareness campaign, using a dedicated group of spokespersons to communicate the message that strong school libraries increase student success, regardless of the economic status of a school's community.

Q: Why did CSLA start the "Best Sellers" Campaign?

A: The public school library has become an endangered species of the California education system. The demise of California's school libraries is occurring at a time when technological change and research on academic achievement have underscored their critical importance.

Q: The key message is "Strong school libraries improve student achievement, regardless of a community's economic status."

What does a strong school library look like? How would I know?

A: Good question. Many parents and policymakers alike are shown the library as a part of any school tour. A room filled with books and people does not necessarily signify a strong library program. A strong school library has five key components:

- ★ *A full-time, certified Teacher Librarian and a paraprofessional working as a team.*
- ★ *Carefully selected books, databases, and other learning resources.*
- ★ *Technology, including networked computers.*
- ★ *Its doors open before, during and after school hours.*
- ★ *An instructional program which teaches the research process.*

Q: What is the goal of the CSLA "Best Sellers" Campaign?

A: Student achievement. Equitable access for all students. Strengthen California's school library programs because research shows they are key to increasing student academic achievement. 21st Century learners.



*Learning through
Books, Media and Technology*

***Strong School Libraries
Build Strong Students
and Lifelong Learners***

Thank you for caring and sharing your passion for California students, literacy, and libraries.

Thank you for being a “Best Seller”.