
Impact of The Power Libraries Program

Since 1998 the Power Libraries Program has:

- Involved 131 individual schools in 42 school districts across Colorado
- Benefited more than 94,000 Colorado students by combining literacy standards and content standards
- Trained hundreds of teams of librarians, teachers, and administrators in the collaboration model

Becoming a Power Library School

Participating schools in the Power Library Program have a library that is designated “High Performance” or “Developing” after meeting specific criteria. *Developing* libraries work toward *High Performance* status through a carefully planned year of training and mentoring. Librarians and teachers in participating schools receive specific training in the librarian/teacher collaboration model and receive consulting assistance by experts.

- Schools with *High Performance* libraries are recognized statewide for their contribution to student achievement and excellence.
- Workshops for school teams of a principal, teacher, and librarian are provided without cost to participating schools.

For information on how to become a
Power Libraries School contact:

Maggie Armstrong, 303-469-4298, librarydiva12@earthlink.net
Joan Arrowsmith, 303-791-2759, jumpingjoan@qwest.net
Nance Nassar, 303-866-6772, nassar_n@cde.state.co.us

Additional information can be found at
www.cde.state.co.us/cdelib/powerlib/

YOUR SCHOOL LIBRARY AND STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

COLORADO
POWER
LIBRARIES PROGRAM:
A collaborative approach
to improving student
achievement

*A cooperative program of the Colorado State Library
and the Colorado Department of Education*



School Libraries Make a Difference

Power Libraries can make a real difference! Groundbreaking research, *How School Librarians Help Kids Achieve Standards*, from the Library Research Service of the Colorado State Library and the Colorado Department of Education, shows that student scores on standardized tests are ten to eighteen percent higher at schools with outstanding library programs.

A professionally trained school librarian and a quality school library program correlate directly to higher student scores on standardized tests like the Colorado Student Assessment Program (CSAP).

The Power Libraries Program, initiated under a Federal grant in 1998, awards “High Performance” designation to outstanding school libraries in Colorado. These libraries are staffed by a professional librarian, have excellent resources, and represent the “best of the best.” These schools agree to share their expertise and experience by mentoring “Developing” schools and accepting visitors from other Colorado schools not currently in the program.

Benefits for Your School

- Libraries are cost effective. It is cheaper and more efficient to maintain a centralized collection of well-selected materials than to duplicate titles among many classrooms.
- Teachers and librarians working together bring a combination of essential skills and instructional activities to benefit students.
- Student achievement on standardized tests can be improved when the school develops and supports a quality library program and the librarian is a partner in pre-planning for reading and research assignments.
- More effective use is made of librarian and teacher time and library resources.

Benefits for Your Students

- Implementing collaboration leads to better planning between teachers and librarians and more meaningful research strategies by students.
- Students can access library resources when needed rather than in isolation from classroom instruction.
- Students have more opportunities to learn and use technologies and techniques to acquire information literacy skills.
- Students are more engaged in problem solving and answering meaningful questions by using information.
- Research demonstrates that quality libraries improve CSAP scores.

Benefits for Your Teachers

- There are more options for small-group instruction and individual pacing to enhance classroom learning.
- Collaboration between teachers and librarians brings additional energy, expertise and creativity to planning instructional activities.
- An open, less rigidly scheduled library enables students to use library resources more effectively for continuity and improved learning.
- Student research, analysis, synthesis of ideas, note taking, and many other reading and literacy-oriented tasks can be reinforced by the librarian.
- Librarians and teachers together encourage students to experience the joy of reading.