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**Services and Savings @ School Libraries**

**What *services* are offered by school libraries that are different from public libraries?**

* School libraries develop collections to improve student learning, choosing resources that correlate to the developmental needs, interests and areas of study for a given school.

Example: School libraries are extensions of school classrooms, providing resources that coordinate with specific lessons and objectives and a teacher-librarian familiar with the assignments, teachers’ intent, and assessment practices. Students choose to use their school’s electronic resources because they match what they need for class. They check out fiction from their teacher-librarian because they have the latest and greatest titles in quantity when students want them. Public libraries serve the public. School libraries serve a specific school community.

* School libraries provide a place for ***all*** students to learn as well as equitable access to books and technology.

Example: Running Start students who are in between the high school and college campus, homeschooled students who come for one or two periods a day, or online learning students who need a class period or two to work on a computer can access resources and technology in their school library. At school, they received guided help from their teacher-librarian.

* School libraries help provide a place for students to learn practical and social skills.

Example: Many students, some as young as 4th grade and some in special education life skills programs, spend time doing important tasks as library helpers and assistants like checking out and reshelving books, and helping their peers navigate and wisely utilize the best information available.

* As spaces and programs, school libraries are safe places to read, think, share and learn.

Example: Many teacher-librarians arrive an hour before school starts and will have 30-50 students doing all of these things before school starts. If teacher-librarians show up five minutes late, they get glares from the students cooling their heels at the door. The public library won't open until 10AM. Neither does Barnes and Noble.

**How do school libraries *save* school districts money?**

* Given budget constraints, teacher-librarians and libraries are a highly cost-effective way to move forward with 21st century teaching and learning. Teachers and administrators are struggling with the day-to-day challenges of evolving standards, assessments and the daily work of teaching and learning. Teacher-librarians can step forward, many times with their co-teachers, as coaches, advocates, allies, consultants, tech gurus, curriculum leaders and visionaries to help both students and teachers do more with less, integrating innovative technology and techniques.

Example: In Vancouver Public Schools, all teacher-librarians are being trained as educational technology leaders for their respective schools. As new techniques and technologies are introduced to teachers, they are both the first adopters and first support for teachers wanting to integrate such tools as Prezi, YouTube and podcasting in the classroom. Districts that still have libraries and teacher-librarians can leverage these existing resources with no additional costs by utilizing library professionals, programs and spaces to meet 21st century goals.

Example: OSPI is working with WLMA to train a cadre of teacher-librarians in Washington State to be Peer Coaches in Instructional Technology by the end of the 2011—2012 school year. Teacher-librarians will then provide professional development and support for all teachers in their districts to integrate technology with curriculum.

* School libraries can be high-tech centers for tech-poor schools. Their programs can serve as exemplars for integration of library, information and technology instruction.

Example: Many schools are not wired like they should be. Many libraries have been outfitted with tools and capacity to allow teachers to come in and use a 21st century classroom. Responders, interactive whiteboards, enhanced sound systems and support by the teacher-librarian allow us to provide 21st century learning opportunities to students.