

## THE MISSION AND PURPOSE OF THE LIBRARY MEDIA PROGRAM

The mission of the LMP (Library Media Program) is to provide students and staff intellectual and physical access to ideas and information and to stimulate interest and competence in using information and ideas. This is essential if learning and teaching are to be effective, consistent and valued.

The mission of the school library media program can be elaborated by identifying a number of purposes:

- 1.To provide intellectual access to information through systematic learning activities which develop cognitive strategies for selecting, retrieving, analyzing, evaluating, synthesizing, and creating information at all age levels and in all relevant curriculum content areas;
- 2.To provide physical access to information through (1) a carefully selected and systematically organized collection of diverse learning resources, representing a wide range of subjects, levels of difficulty, communication formats, and technological delivery systems; and (2) arrangements for providing access to information and materials outside of the library media center and outside the school through such mechanisms as interlibrary loan, networking and other cooperative agreements, and online searching of various database;
- 3.To provide learning experiences which address the characteristics of different communication media, including new and emerging computer-based information technologies so that users become discriminating consumers and skilled creators of different media;
- 4.To provide leadership and consulting assistance in the use of instructional and information technology and the use of sound instruction design principles;
- 5.To provide resources and activities which contribute to life-long learning through independent, self-directed, and cooperative inquiry, media production, and aesthetic appreciation, and which are selected and organized to accommodate a wide range of individual differences in teaching and learning styles;
- 6.To provide a facility which functions as the communications center of the school, as a nexus for integrated, interdisciplinary, interdepartmental, inter-grade, and school-wide learning activities; and
- 7.To provide resources and learning activities which represent a diversity of experiences, opinions, social and cultural perspectives, supporting the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are prerequisite to effective citizenship in a democracy.

Achieving this mission in a school and district requires a coordinated effort of the district and school administration as well as the total school staff. It also implies a serious commitment to the value of access to information and ideas for all. It is then the responsibility of the district library media director and the school library media specialist to provide the leadership in translating this mission into the roles that will provide the assistance and services that will make effective access to information and ideas a reality.

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