Losing Elementary Library Teachers

What does it mean for Vinal and Cole?

Highlights of Elementary Library Programs:

Circulations:
Vinal and Cole circulated thousands of books last year, totaling **45,173 circulations.**

Value of library collections:
Vinal School and Cole school collectively have **33,260 titles** for students to check out. A conservative estimate for replacement ($12/book) **values our two collections at approximately $399,120.** Library teachers carefully curate books both for purchase and removal, repair and replace books, and track down lost books. They manage the library budget. Our elementary library teachers have comprehensive knowledge of our collections and of the pedagogy of library teaching to help students select the best books to match their reading levels and interests. Both our elementary librarians have advanced degrees and Massachusetts licenses as a Library Teacher.

Birthday Book/Celebrations programs:
Cole's Birthday Book Program and Vinal's Celebrations Program have brought in **3,540 new books to our elementary libraries over the last 12 years,** generously donated by families in honor of their students. These programs greatly enhance our collections and students often come back to check out these books year after year.

Database Instruction:
Elementary library teachers teach students in grades 3-5 how to access statewide research databases, which are the primary sources for student research in secondary school and in college. ***Norwell High School had the highest database use in Massachusetts last year[1],** in part because they had been receiving database instruction in elementary and middle school. **Research is a main component of many high school graduation requirements.**

Sora Ebook and Audiobook Program:
Elementary library teachers teach students how to use Sora, the public school version of Overdrive, which allows students to check out ebooks and audiobooks from Massachusetts public libraries, Norwell Schools libraries, and from the subscription MLS collection. **Students benefit from this instruction because middle and high school teachers use Sora regularly.**

Information literacy instruction:
Elementary library teachers teach information literacy skills in grades K-5, such as learning how to use indexes, glossaries, and tables of content; how to use databases; learning citation and bibliography skills; learning about plagiarism and copyright, and how to evaluate a Web site. They also collaborate with classroom teachers to do research projects by providing print and digital resources and teaching research skills for projects.

* Compared to Massachusetts high schools of equal or lesser size

1. "Massachusetts State Databases FY 2024." Massachusetts Library System, guides.masslibsystem.org/databases/FY2024. Accessed 16 Mar. 2025.

What do NPS elementary students lose if library teachers are eliminated?

Loss of access to MLS Collection

Cole and Vinal each subscribe to the 70,000 (unique item) ebook and audiobook collection sponsored by the Massachusetts Library System (MLS). Our students benefit greatly from access to so many age-appropriate, carefully curated ebooks and audiobooks. **Without a licensed library teacher at Vinal and Cole, we lose eligibility to participate in this valuable program.**

Loss of access to State Databases at Vinal and Cole

Students learn to use state databases as early as grade 3 at Vinal and Cole. Learning how to do research and where to find fact-based information is crucial, and databases are the primary source for research in college and graduate school. **Without a licensed library teacher at Cole and Vinal, we lose our subscription to these databases at Cole and Vinal, and instruction on databases will be delayed until middle school.**

Loss of Birthday Book/Celebrations Programs

Our library teachers run our donation programs, which help to build our collections, as well as build community in our libraries and schools. If elementary library teachers are eliminated, **technology teachers will be teaching technology in the library and providing some book check-out time, but they will not be running these programs.**

Loss of Library Programming

Vinal School celebrates its 5th year of Book Bees, an all-inclusive, very successful trivia challenge that fosters a love of reading across genres in grades 4 and 5. Cole School has enjoyed **12 years of the Cole School Book Challenge**, which students in grades 3, 4, and 5 take part in, reading thousands of books each year collectively. These programs were developed by our elementary library teachers and will not continue if their positions are eliminated.

Loss of Information Literacy Instruction

Tech skills and information literacy skills are two different things. While they overlap in some areas, IT teachers have their own standards and curriculum to teach. Information literacy instruction starts in kindergarten with simple parts of a book (author, illustrator, cover, title page), growing to 3rd grade (how do I use a thesaurus and an index?) and elevates to 5th grade (creating bibliographies and citing sources). **Without elementary library teachers, citation skills will not be taught until middle school, affecting readiness for high school research later.**

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