

2026
GOOD NEWS
from the
AAPS
Library Services
Department

Jennifer Colby - Secondary Chair
Rachel Goldberg - Elementary Chair



About the department...

Students

We support
ALL
of our
diverse learners
grades Y5-12

Librarians

In all 31 K-12
Buildings
Masters in Library
Science/
Information
ND Certified
(Media Specialist)

Programs

Instruction
Digital Citizenship
Special
Events/Activities
Book Fairs
Funding
Friends Group

Resources

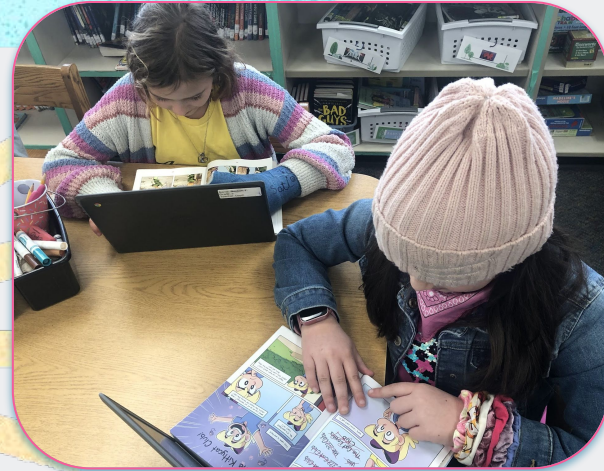
Print books
Digital books
Research
databases
Streaming
videos

Students

- Instruction
- Book checkout
- Tech support
- Test prep
- Safe spaces
- A2V space
- Club advisory
- Homework help

We directly
support
≈6,000
students
per day

500 average per HS (comp)
50 average per HS (alt)
200 average per MS
125 average per ES



**Tech You Need to Know
for School**



ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Library Services Department
Jeri Schneider, librarian
Laurel Peterson, CHS senior
AAPS Library Services Department

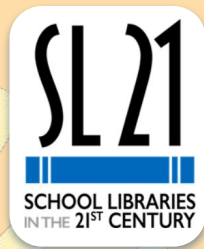


Librarians

- Diversity Audits
- Collection Development
- Cataloging
- Shelf-Service
- Purchasing
- Teacher support/
co-teaching
- Common Sense Educators
- Conference presenters
- SL21 Certification



2025-28 SL 21 Certification



28 AAPS libraries are certified

School Libraries of the 21st Century



LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN

February 27, 2025

Ann Arbor Public Schools Libraries Gain SL 21 Status!



Karren Reish

The Ann Arbor Public Schools (AAPS) school libraries have been certified in the 21st Century School Libraries program. We are pleased to welcome 28 new libraries from AAPS! 25 have Exemplary status and 3 have Qualified status. The applications the school librarians and staff at the Ann Arbor Public Schools submitted testify to the important role the school library program has for their students.

Congratulations to the AAPS librarians and staff!

For more information on the SL 21 program and to see which schools are certified, please go to www.michigan.gov/sl21.

Our librarians have shown a strong commitment to information literacy and student achievement by focusing on these key areas:

- Teaching for 21st Century Learning
- Building the 21st Century Learning Environment
- Leading the Way to 21st Century Learning

Programs: Instruction

Elementary Resource Portal
ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS Library Services Department

Access these apps through Clever:

Sora
Open a world of reading.

Pebble Go
GO Next

ProQuest
eLibrary

MEL
Michigan eLibrary Resources

WORLD BOOK KIDS

WORLD BOOK EARLY LEARNING

Britannica School Elementary

Britannica Fundamentals

*If you can't find what you are looking for in the links above, then try the safe search site, Kiddle.

Citation Guide:

Using Citations

Independent Reading Choice Time:

K-2

3-5

Middle School Resource Portal
ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS Library Services Department

Sora Resources

Sora SWEET READS
COMING SOON!

aadl
AADL Databases

MEL
Michigan eLibrary

Sweet Search
A Search Engine for Students

Britannica School Edition
MIDDLE SCHOOL

Enciclopedia Estudiantil Holgazas

World Book Kids

GALE
IN CONTEXT
Access through Schoology

AAPS Library Databases Live Binder

Pleco Learning
Free, copyright friendly images for education

zotero bib

Khan Academy

POLITIFACT

FactCheck.org

Access these apps through Clever

ProQuest CultureGrams

Varsity Tutors

brainfuse
Live tutoring & homework help w/AADL card

AAPS Library Services Department
Library Newsletter

- Literacy
- Research
- Digital skills
- Digital Citizenship
- Information Literacy
- Keyboarding

HS Library Resource Website Example

Skyline High School
Ann Arbor Public Schools

Quick Links • For Staff • Employment • ENROLL

Calendar • Our School • Administration • Academics • Library • Athletics • Staff Space • Skyline Family Resources

Catalog • Books • Classroom Links • Databases • Resources • Who We Are

HOME > LIBRARY

LIBRARY HOME

Welcome to
The Skyline Library!

Your library staff is here to support you with databases, digital resources, eBooks, print books and more.

Come visit us:
Monday-Friday 7-45am - 3:06pm

Contact the Skyline Library with Questions! sky_library@aaps.k12.mi.us

For Databases, click here!

Search for books here!

GALE

DESTINY

Standards:

common sense media®



Programs: Digital Resource Support

25-26 AAPS Digital Ecosystem Tools
to Support Teaching-Learning

In addition to traditional library tools, we provide instruction and support (for students AND staff) on digital resources that deliver district-wide curricular content.

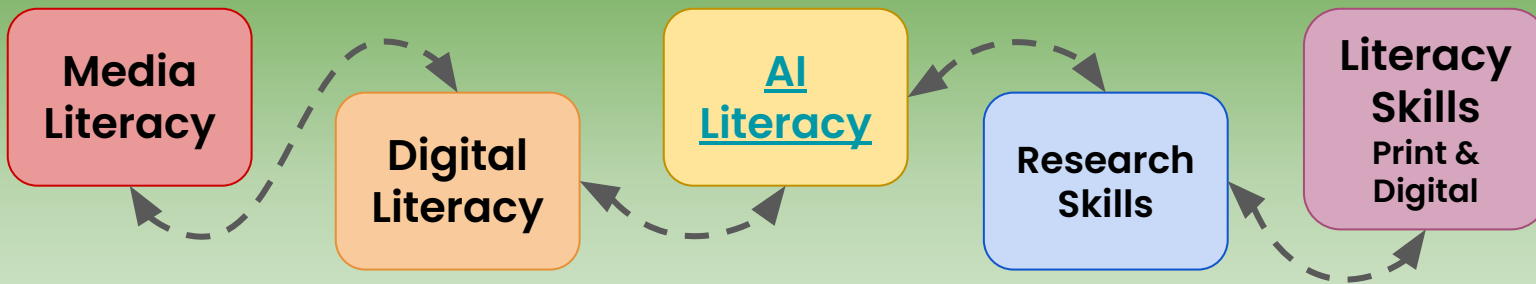


Programs: AI Literacy

AI Literacy encompasses an understanding of how AI works, using AI responsibly, recognizing its social and ethical impacts, understanding AI's potential benefits and risks, and knowing how to mitigate the risks.

***AI Literacy instruction does NOT include using AI tools.
Elementary students are NOT being taught HOW TO USE AI.
Elementary students do NOT have access to AI tools on their district devices.***

AAPS ~~A~~ceptable RESPONSIBLE Use Policy



Increasing Student Digital Readiness

Programs: AI Literacy in Elementary

AI Literacy includes [five library lessons](#) at the elementary level. These lessons were created by librarians in our department last summer and modeled after the Common Sense Media AI literacy lessons for secondary students.

What is AI?

AI Chatbots: What is behind the screen?

AI Chatbots and Friendships

Artificial Intelligence - Is it Plagiarism?

Environmental Impact of AI

Programs: Special Events/Activities

Read our
department
newsletter

AAPS Library
Services Department

March/April 2024 Vol. 20



[Links to previous newsletters](#)

AADL Library Card Drives and Spring AADL visits
Cultural Heritage Month Activities/Displays
Book Bowl/March Madness Competitions
Great Lakes Great Books Competition
Vegetable Growing Towers
Community Partnerships
Book Drives/Giveaways
March is Reading Month
LWV Voter Registration
Family Reading Nights
Seed Libraries
Author Visits
Book Clubs
Storywalks
Project Lit



Programs: Community Partnerships



Local artist, Lyn Wood, worked with Scarlett Library Ambassadors to create a one of a kind library mural representing the community

Clague students volunteer in the King library

Programs: Fundraising and Advocacy

Librarians have raised over

\$25,000

per year

to supplement our budgets

- Book Fairs
- Grants
- In the news
- MASL/ALA members
- FAAPSL

*Ann Arbor***FAMILY**
Press™

Laurel Maguire- Slauson

Booklist
Leading book discovery

Carolyn Hill- Skyline

The Michigan Daily

Jennifer Colby- Sec. Dept Chair



Friends of the
Ann Arbor Public
Schools Libraries

The mission of the FAAPSL includes:

- Providing volunteer services for the libraries
- Raising money for needs not normally covered in the library department's operating budget
- Advocating for the Library at the local and state levels

FAAPSL received a **\$15,000**

Knight Foundation Grant to purchase audiobooks in Sora
They also pay for some training/resources and hold book covering parties.

Resources: Print + digital = EQUITY

- Follett Destiny
- Sora
- MyVideoSpot
- PebbleGo/Next
- Gale Databases
- MeL Databases



Follett Destiny: Print Books



216,520

Checkouts district-wide
(August 2025 through April 21, 2026)



Why Sora?

It's our district-wide digital library



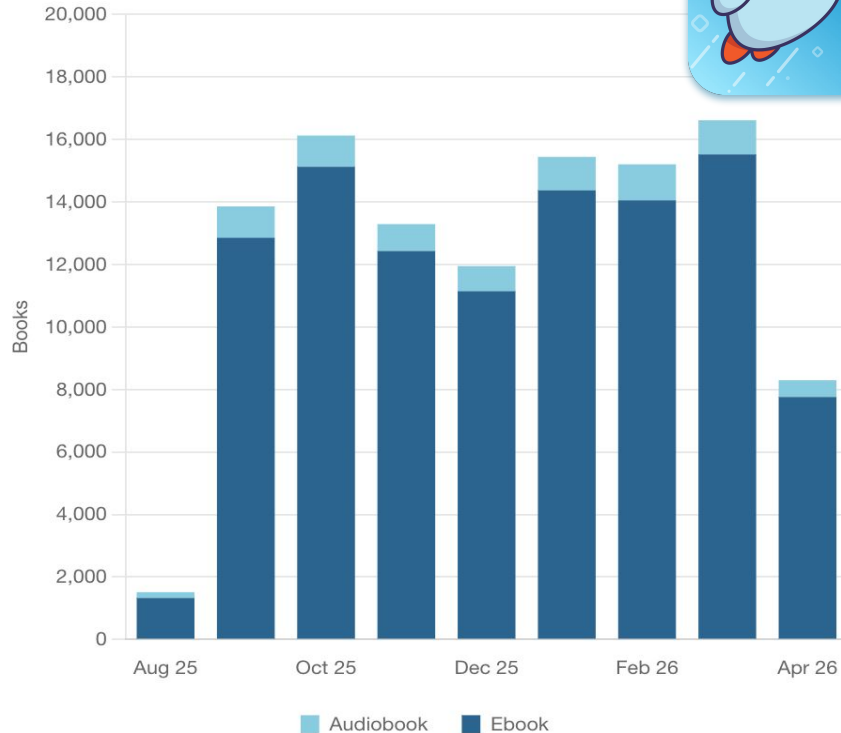
- Patrons can find books at their reading level and in multiple languages
- Availability of high-quality ebook, audiobook, and read-along formats
- 24/7 access all year long
- Connects to public library's digital collection
- Promotes reading via achievement badges
- Develops digital reading skills to prepare for online testing
 - Onscreen reading
 - Notes and highlights
 - Define words

2025-26 Statistics

Total books opened



Total number of books **112,305**



112,377

Ebooks and audiobooks checked out district-wide

(August 2025 through April 20, 2026)

Collection breakdown:

Ebooks

5,328 titles

130,253 copies

Audiobooks

943 titles

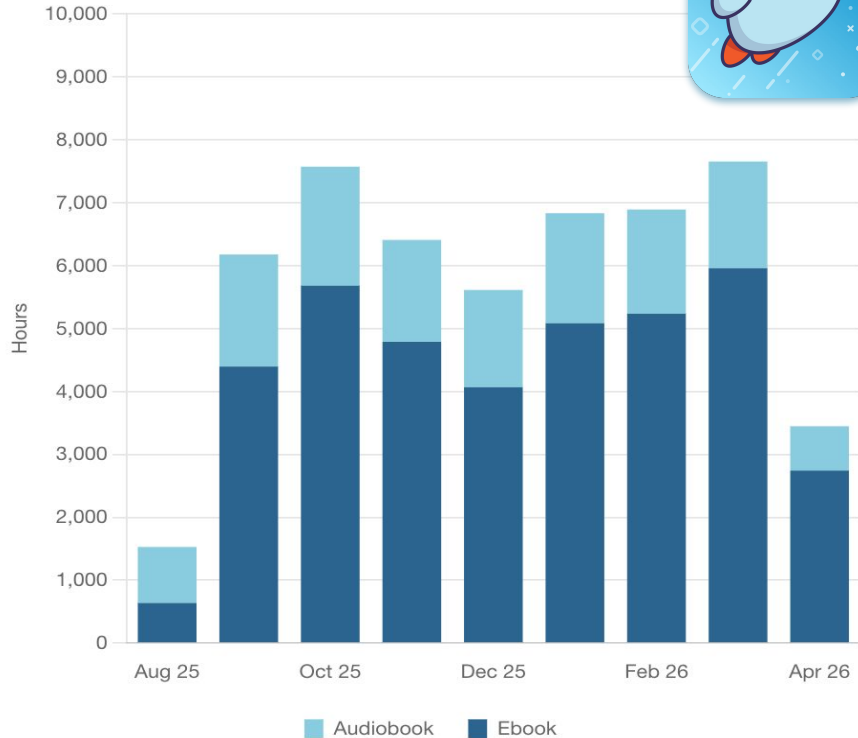
6,869 copies

2025-26 Statistics

Total time read



Total number of hours **52,135.2**



52,135

Total hours read district-wide

(August 2025 through April 20, 2026)

Sora TOP USER

22-23

Since Fall 2020

919,039
ALL-TIME
Checkouts!

[AAPS is nearing 500,000 check-outs using the Sora reading app](#)

(As of 6:36 pm April 20, 2026)

[Usage Dashboard](#)

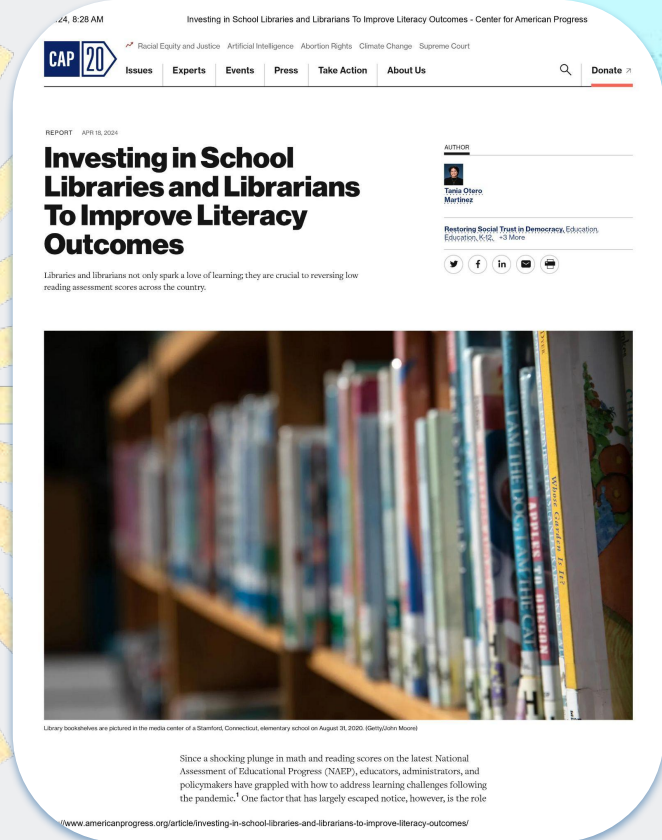
Research supports school library programs

Investing in School Libraries and Librarians to Improve Literacy Outcomes: [\(link to brief\)](#)

“More than 50 years of research across more than 60 studies show that students with access to well-resourced school libraries with certified librarians consistently **perform better academically and score higher on standardized assessments.**”

Impact of school librarians on elementary student achievement in reading and mathematics: A propensity score analysis (2023) [\(link to study\)](#)

“Students with a full-time school librarian **score significantly higher on reading and math** than similar students who do not.”



Investing in School Libraries and Librarians to Improve Literacy Outcomes - Center for American Progress

24, 8:28 AM

Issues Experts Events Press Take Action About Us


REPORT APR 19, 2024

Investing in School Libraries and Librarians To Improve Literacy Outcomes

Author: Tavis Otero, Maritza Martinez

Restoring Social Trust in Democracy, Education, K-12, +3 More

Libraries and librarians not only spark a love of learning; they are crucial to reversing low reading assessment scores across the country.

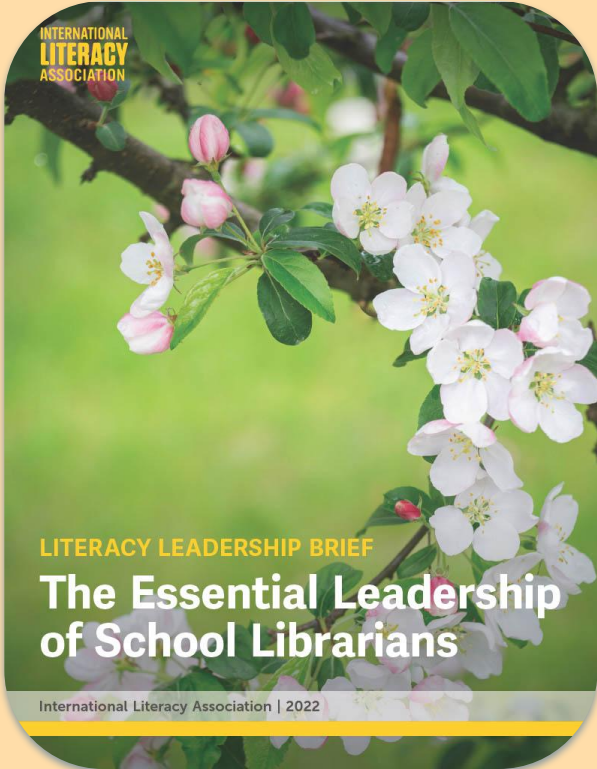


Library bookshelves are pictured in the media center of a Stamford, Connecticut, elementary school on August 31, 2020. (Getty/John Moore)

Since a shocking plunge in math and reading scores on the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), educators, administrators, and policymakers have grappled with how to address learning challenges following the pandemic.¹ One factor that has largely escaped notice, however, is the role

www.americanprogress.org/article/investing-in-school-libraries-and-librarians-to-improve-literacy-outcomes/

School librarians as literacy leaders



This **International Literacy Association** brief on maximizing the power and partnership of school librarians explains that **having school librarians as collaborators, advocates for literacy equity, and as providers of access improve student literacy outcomes.**

School librarians prepare students for life after AAPS

“First years' information literacy backpacks: What's already packed or not packed?”

This 2022 study from the Journal of Academic Librarianship shows that students coming from high schools with high school librarians feel better prepared for academic research.



Valenza, J. K., Dalal, H., Mohamad, G., Boyer, B., Berg, C., Charles, L. H., Bushby, R., Dempsey, M., Dalrymple, J., & Dziedzic-Elliott, E. (2022). "First years' information literacy backpacks: What's already packed or not packed?" *The Journal of Academic Librarianship*, 48(4), 102566. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.acalib.2022.102566>

School libraries are safe spaces for students

Key findings you should know:

- + SCHOOL SAFETY:** Many LGBTQ+ youth feel unsafe at school—yet the library is often seen as a safe haven
 - Almost half (**46.1%**) of LGBTQ+ youth, including over half (**53.9%**) of transgender and gender expansive youth, reported feeling unsafe in at least one school setting
 - However almost 9 in 10 (**88.7%**) LGBTQ+ youth reported that they usually or always feel safe in their school library

<https://hrc-prod-requests.s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/Youth-Report-Librarians-Media-FNL.pdf>



“School librarians are a guiding light. They’re mentors, advocates, and researchers that help students spark their infinite imagination. To every librarian in Michigan, thank you for keeping our state curious and inspired.” – Governor Gretchen Whitmer April 2026

Happy

AASL

**SCHOOL
LIBRARY
MONTH**

CELEBRATING **40** YEARS



***from our district
Librarians!***