

## The Bad News...

- Statewide pupil/teacher ratio is almost 17 to 1. The pupil/librarian ratio is over 710 to 1.
- Since 2000, the number of students in Colorado public schools has risen more than 1%, but school library budgets are down almost 10%.



## The Good News (cont'd)...

- Students can access licensed databases via 85,000 computers located throughout schools — 1 for every 9 students.
- School libraries outnumber McDonald's restaurants in Colorado 7 to 1.

**“School libraries help teachers teach and children learn. Children and teachers need library resources — especially books — and the expertise of a librarian to succeed.”**

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### Based on School Library Survey data available at:

[http://www.LRS.org/school\\_lib.html](http://www.LRS.org/school_lib.html)

Library Research Service  
Colorado State Library  
Colorado Department of Education

In partnership with the  
University of Denver  
Library & Information Science Program



#### Contacts:

Keith Curry Lance, Director  
Library Research Service  
303.866.6737  
[lance\\_k@cde.state.co.us](mailto:lance_k@cde.state.co.us)

Becky Russell, Research Analyst  
Library Research Service  
303.866.6900  
[russell\\_b@cde.state.co.us](mailto:russell_b@cde.state.co.us)

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# Quotable Facts About Colorado's School Libraries

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**Make the grade**  
**@your library™**

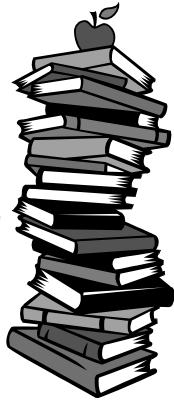
# Quotable Facts About Colorado's School Libraries

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## The Good News...

- Weekly visits to Colorado school libraries equals annual visits to Mesa Verde National Park.
- Individual students visit school libraries for information literacy instruction over 180,000 times weekly. Each week school is in session, that would fill Invesco Field at Mile High twice and still leave an overflow.



## The Good News (cont'd)...

- Colorado's school libraries have over 12 million books, almost a dozen for each state resident under 18 years old.

**In Colorado elementary schools where teachers and librarians collaborate most, CSAP scores average about 20% higher than for schools without such collaboration.**

- On average, students check out a book per week from Colorado's school libraries.

## More Bad News...

- On average, Colorado's starting school librarians are paid less than tile setters despite the fact that most librarians have a master's degree, a teaching license, and a library endorsement.
- Colorado school libraries spend \$1.5 million, about \$2.00/pupil, on materials in electronic format and electronic access to information. That is less than 1/3 of what the Colorado Rockies have spent on a first baseman.
- Annual spending on print materials for Colorado's school libraries buys about 1/2 of a book per pupil.

## More Bad News (cont'd)...

- Two out of five Colorado schools lack a qualified librarian.
- Half of Colorado school library books are over 15 years old. From a book that old, a student wouldn't know about the fall of the Berlin Wall.



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